

MARSTON NEWS

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

My dear Friends,

It is a great privilege to write the letter for this month's Marston News.

Firstly I would like to welcome in our midst, the Rev. & Mrs. L. V. Wright—who have just arrived from a place of great repute (but little mentioned in Oxford), namely Cambridge. We have waited expectantly for several months to their coming, and are looking forward with keen anticipation for their work amongst us.

Secondly, although Archdeacon and Mrs. Savage have left us, and I believe are settling down gradually at Whitechurch; yet our thoughts and prayers should be constantly for them in this great work to which they have been called, that they may be given grace and vision.

Autumn is upon us, and we notice it especially as the days get shorter and shorter. This lovely

“Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness
Close bosom friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatcheaves run.
To bend with apples, the moss'd cottage trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core”.

In the midst of these material blessings of God's faithfulness, do we *always* thank Him for every department of our lives, or do we only at Harvest and other special occasions? One verse which reminds me to try to, at any rate, remember God's faithfulness, is in *Lamentations*, Chapter 3, verse 23: “It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not, they are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness”.

I trust by the time this letter appears in print, this awful bout of 'flu and colds will have subsided, and that most, if not all our parishioners will be fit and strong once more.

May I say at this point, to those who have recently lost loved ones, that we as a parish are upholding them in prayer.

Looking back since last November when I came to work amongst you, I can say we have come to know each other in a very personal way, and pray that in the coming days we may speak about eternal matters without feeling in the least embarrassed, but above all that you may know Our Lord as Master and Friend in your lives.

Your sincere friend,

MADLINE LILES (*Parish Worker*).

Diary for November.

October 31st.—Institution and Induction of our new Vicar, in Church at 7.30 p.m. Refreshments afterwards in the Primary School.

November 1st.—All Saints' Day.

November 3rd.—20th Sunday After Trinity. Our Vicar will be reading the 39 Articles of Religion during the Services of that day, stating his beliefs as a Vicar in our Established Church of England.

November 4th.—Prayer Meeting and Bible Study of the Acts of the Apostles. 8 p.m. to 8.45 p.m. in the Church School. New members will be welcome. Also on 8th, 15th, 21st and 30th November.

- November 5th.—Guy Fawkes Day. Pram Service for Mothers with young children, 2.45 p.m. in Church.
- November 6th.—Young Wives' Group. Gramophone Evening, 7.45 p.m. Bring your favourite records, also sewing.
- November 10th.—Remembrance Sunday.
- November 13th.—Parochial Church Council, 7.45 p.m.
- November 17th.—22nd Sunday After Trinity.
- November 20th.—Young Wives' Group. Talk on the Blood Transfusion Service, 7.45 p.m. in the Reading Room.
- November 24th.—23rd Sunday After Trinity (frequently called "Stir up" Sunday).
- November 26th.—Young Wives' and Mothers' Union united Meeting. Lantern Talk on the work of Father Huddleston in South Africa.
- November 30th.—St. Andrew's Day.
- December 1st.—Advent Sunday.

Bible Quiz Competition. Lucy Haynes of Cross Farm, Marston, sent in the most interesting and correct answers, for nine months. A prize has therefore been awarded to her.

Young Wives' Group. All young married women are cordially invited to consider joining the Young Wives' Group. Membership is open to all married women under the age of forty, or who have children of school age. The Group meets at the Reading Room on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 7.45 p.m. Talks are given on a wide variety of subjects—topical, domestic, and spiritual—there is something of interest for everyone. In addition, there are various social events, such as parties at Christmas, and outings in the Summer. The meetings are quite informal and friendly, and there is always the opportunity of getting to know other members and talking over a cup of tea during the evening. The annual subscription is 2/6d., which works out at a little under 2d. a meeting, and 4d. an evening for tea and biscuits—and where else could you get an evening's entertainment and a cup of tea (two if you like!) for 6d. these days? If there are any wives who would like to join, but are unable to do so as their husbands are not at home and they have young children who cannot be left, every effort will be made to supply a baby-sitter. Any further particulars may be obtained from the undermentioned:—

Chairman: Mrs. M. Smith, 4 Windsor Crescent.

Secretary: Mrs. Holmes, 10 Cavendish Drive.

Parish Worker: Miss M. Liles, c/o The Vicarage.

A Marston Walk. Leave the village towards the by-pass (Mill Lane) (North) and after that awful S-bend a very old stile will be seen on the left. Take the footpath leading West from it, bear right to the next stile, down the hedge in mid-field and in a few minutes there is the Victoria Inn, the River Cherwell and a Ferry. Going over the ferry takes one to North Oxford, turning right (North) the footpath is a field or so away from the river and comes out near the cement bridge where the Northern by-pass leaps the Cherwell (the first road bridge for three miles from Magdalen Bridge). Turn left at the ferry and one is among some of the loveliest scenery Oxford can reveal. Here and there the path is a field away from the river but through the second field the stream is overhung with grey-green willows on both banks, then comes a bend with lovely trees on the other bank and low-lying lush meadows Marston side. Charming places to spend a hot afternoon, with bathing if you wish and the never-ending procession of boats to interest and amuse. About here one passes Timms' boat-house and the Dragon School playing fields (on the other side), then some old boathouses and more lovely trees and Lady Margaret Hall. Now we are opposite the University Parks. The duck pond, with its well-fed dozens of mallard ducks, water-lilies and bullrushes is worth a visit every week, and the numberless varied trees cannot all be seen from across the river. Soon

we come to the charming high-arched footbridge which takes one over to the Parks, Keble Road and St. Giles'. Several churches and University buildings can be seen from this (Marston) side, and to walkers it is a short cut to the city. If we about turn at this bridge and walk East, passing a boundary stone erected when Messrs. Buckell and Twining were Mayor and Sheriff, one can turn right at the T fork for New Marston and its roads near the "Somerset"; or left and a fine modern tubular stile, along the ditch to Green Lane, the Secondary and Primary Marston Schools, the recreation ground and main road. Taking the green lane as it turns north behind the houses and farms of the main road, we again come to our starting point, that awful S bend and the maddening noise of modern roads we had forgotten in the charming Marston meadows.

Z.K.

St. Nicholas Primary School. The Annual General Meeting of the Teacher/Parent Association was well attended and the ballot for the new committee resulted in the following being elected:—

Teacher Representatives: Mrs. M. M. Jones, Miss D. Wright, Mrs. M. M. Woodward (Hon. Treasurer), Mr. R. W. Jenkins, and Mr. C. H. Webley.

Parents' Representatives: Mrs. M. Smith (Hon. Secretary), Mrs. E. M. Holmes, Mr. Hey, Mr. A. R. Hill, and Mr. R. V. Vernede.

Among the items planned is the Annual Christmas Sale which will take place at the School on Saturday, December 7th, at 2.30 p.m.

It is hoped to exceed last year's membership total of 98 families as the school roll now numbers 320.

Parents were glad to learn that work on the extra classrooms will start early in the new year. A separate playground for the Infants will be laid down at the same time.

The Vernede Cups awarded annually for Merit were won last year by Sheenagh Gammon and Andrew Weaver. Blue House won the Athletic Shield.

Expressions of appreciation of our President, Ven. G. D. Savage, were recorded in the minutes. He had been an inspiration to all concerned with St. Nicholas County School and his presence will be much missed.

We welcome the new Vicar, the Rev. L. V. Wright, and are glad to learn that he will be serving on our Managing Body.

Restoration Fund Report.

In May 1956 the Restoration Appeal Fund was inaugurated, and the sum of £2,500 was asked for from the parishioners and friends of St. Nicholas, Old Marston. In the appeal we said that parts of the tower were in a dangerous condition, and that in many other places the stonework was badly eroded. The fund was also to cover improvements to the interior of the Church and the churchyard. It was expected that the work of restoring the Church, and the collecting of the money, would take at least three years.

During the first year, that is 1956, the sum of £1,669 was raised, and the tower was restored. All who have seen the result of this piece of restoration work cannot fail to be very impressed. In addition, work was also done on the gables at the west end of the chancel.

We carried forward into 1957 a balance in hand of £42. This year, so far, extensive repair has been carried out on the east end of the chancel, the south side of the chancel, north gables, and porch, etc. The work, once begun, was found to be even more extensive than was anticipated. The bill for the work completed has come to £816, and by the time you read this report the whole of that bill will have been paid. A further estimate of £122 to complete this exterior work has been received and accepted, and

if the weather holds, and our builders can come to Marston, we ought to see most of the immediate work finished. But we all know how much illness has held up work of all kinds, and therefore, that, combined with early frosts, may mean waiting until the spring of 1958.

Marston can congratulate itself, and thank its many friends, that it has been able to raise and to carry out, in two years, what it expected would take at least three years to do.

We ought not to leave anything unfinished. Certain work is still necessary. The Marston News will keep you well informed.

DONATIONS RECEIVED since the October Marston News: Miss M. Broughton, Mrs. C. Haynes and sons, Professor and Mrs. Harlow, per Miss Liles, The British Legion (Marston Branch), Dr. and Mrs. Heatley, special church collection at Archdeacon Savage's last Sunday, in the Model Church at the Gymkhana, per Mrs. West.

Christmas Presents. Many of our readers will be wondering what to give for presents this Christmas, so here are a few suggestions:—

Books for children: *Treasures of the Snow* (by P. St. John), 6/-; *Tanglewood Secrets* (by P. St. John), 6/-; *Star of Light* (by P. St. John), 6/-. These three adventure stories are ideal gifts for youngsters who have reached the age of wanting to discover more about the world in which they are living.

For the younger children the "Ladybird" series at 2/6 each, with pictures on alternate pages, are in great demand. These are Bible stories retold for younger readers.

For those children who like true thrillers, the "Jungle Doctor" series at 4/6 are well worth attention; as is also "Kambuji, Maker of Gods" (a story of modern Congo).

Older readers would be eager for a present of "Through Gates of Splendour", the story of the five missionary martyrs in Equador, who were the first to penetrate the dread land of the Auca Indians, only to be ambushed and slain, as recently as two years ago.

Many of J. B. Phillips' modern translations are suitable, and have been printed in 2/6 editions: "The Gospels", and "Letters to Young Churches". "The Young Church in Action" (The Acts of the Apostles) is 12/6, and "Revelation" is 9/6.

Young and old will doubtless be pleased to receive a new Bible or Prayer Book, or a Church Hymn Book. These range from a few shillings to expensive prices.

I trust these few suggestions will be of use to you as you consider this matter of reading good, wholesome literature, when there is so much "cheap reading" on the market.

All of these books can be obtained either at the Gospel Book Depot, 57A St. Clement's—which, incidentally, has a special "Children's Book Corner"—and also from Mowbray's, of Pembroke Street.

These Christian book shops have a wide variety of suitably-worded Christmas cards, which can be bought at very reasonable prices.

If you need any further guidance over these books, I shall be glad to help you.

M. S. LILES.

The Texts for the month. *St. John* Chapter 14, verse 27: "Jesus said: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid".

Isaiah Chapter 26, verse 3: "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee; because he trusteth in Thee".