

No. 82

DECEMBER, 1964

Price 4d.

**ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH
MARSTON**

CHRISTMAS 1964

Marston Vicarage,
Oxford.

My wife and I join with our family
in wishing you all
A HAPPY AND A HOLY CHRISTMAS

Paul N. Rimmer.

“ O holy child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray ;
Cast out our sin, and enter in :
Be born in us to-day ”

Almighty God, who hast given us
Thy only-begotten Son to take our
nature upon him, and as at this time
to be born of a pure Virgin : Grant
that we being regenerate, and made
Thy children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by Thy Holy
Spirit through the same Our Lord
Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth
with Thee and the same Spirit, ever
one God, world without end. Amen.

Collect for Christmas Day from Book of Common Prayer :

Cover picture : The Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem. J. Allan Cash.

THE VICAR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

The 6th December is ST. NICHOLAS' DAY — the Patronal Festival of our Parish Church. I often hear from people how much they love our dear old Church. Perhaps they were married there years ago . . . perhaps they have just moved into the parish and have come to love it, just because they belong to our Parish "family."

It would be so wonderful if all of us packed the Church to capacity on the 6th December at 11 a.m. at the Festival Communion Service. Of course it will be the service at which members of the St. Nicholas' Fellowship make an act of Re-dedication, but this need not be confined to the members of the Fellowship alone. I would like to see every communicant member of the parish attending the Church on that day. Also on this day there will be the special St. Nicholas' Day Gift Service at 10 a.m. when the children bring toys and gifts for those less fortunate than themselves. Please do not forget the needs of the older children too—sweets and chocolates are always acceptable. Perhaps two or three young people might like to club together to buy one handsome gift for a young teenager?

At Evensong, in place of the sermon, we shall see the Mission Film — "Whilst we have time" which tells the story of the building of a mission hospital from start to finish.

Well, whatever service(s) you attend, pray that God may forge us, as a parish, into a weapon that will combat and overthrow the evil forces that destroy our home life, dull our sense of Christian values, and in the end open up the way for godless materialism.

May this 6th December set us on fire with zeal to win the world for God beginning with a change of heart in our own lives . . . a zeal that touches our homes and families, our work and those around about us.

May God bless and use us all.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,



PATRONAL FESTIVAL : ST. NICHOLAS' DAY : 6th December 1964

ADVENT II : BIBLE SUNDAY

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said).
- 10.0 a.m. Special St. Nicholas' Toy Service. No Children's Instruction at 11 a.m.
- 11.0 a.m. **HOLY COMMUNION**—Festival Dedication Service for Members of St. Nicholas' Fellowship.
- 6.30 p.m. Evensong and Film : "WHILST WE HAVE TIME."

ANNUAL ST. NICHOLAS' GIFT SERVICE

Sunday, 6th December at 10 a.m. We do hope as many parents as possible will come with their children to this service. The children and young people of the Catechism will be asked to bring their gifts to this service. These will be offered and later distributed among those in need. Gifts for the young adolescent and older children will be particularly welcome as this age is so often forgotten at such times. There will be no Sunday School at 11 a.m.

PARENTS' "AT HOME"

The Vicar and Mrs. Rimmer and all the Sunday School Teachers invite the Parents of our Sunday School children to an "At Home" in the Church Hall on Monday, 7th December at 8 p.m. Coffee and light refreshments will be served. We do hope that all parents will do their best to come. There will be an opportunity to chat with one another and time for discussion and questions on the importance of the spiritual training of our children and young people within the Fellowship of Christ's Church.

The children will be bringing invitations home and we look forward to seeing you all there.

CHRISTMAS "BRING AND BUY" AND COFFEE MORNING

In aid of the Church Overseas.

5th December : Saturday morning, 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Please support this effort on behalf of the Church Overseas. Every little helps—Gifts of food, tinned goods, vegetables, fancy and knitted goods, fruit good quality—jumble of all kinds. ALL WILL BE MOST WELCOME

Please bring to Hall on Friday evening if possible and if you cannot bring it yourself, let us know:

OVER 60's CLUB

CHRISTMAS PARTY—Monday, 14th December in the Village Hall.

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Please make a note in your diary NOW! 9th January — Kindergarten and Nursery, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. with visit of "Father Christmas."

Juniors, 5.15 p.m. to 7.15 p.m. with Films, etc. Date will be fixed later for the Crossbearers and Catechism Party.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight will be held on Sunday, 20th December at 6.30 p.m. and on Christmas Eve at 7.30 p.m. The Service on Christmas Eve will have a special emphasis on "Preparing for Christmas" with the children and young people especially in mind. So we encourage parents to come with their children who are full of Christmas Eve excitement and so help them to think about the real meaning of Christmas. On account of the limited accommodation and in view of the fire risk, admission to these services will be by FREE TICKET only. These will be available after the services on 13th December and at Mr. B. G. Oliver's Chemist shop, Old Marston Road.

HOLY COMMUNION with hymns and address will be at 11.30 p.m. on CHRISTMAS EVE and also at 7 a.m., 8 a.m. and Noon on Christmas Day. Christmas Family Mattins will be at 11 a.m. on Christmas morning and Evensong will be said at 5.30 p.m.

CAROLS ROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE:

TUESDAY, 22nd DECEMBER, 1964

It is hoped to be able to erect an illuminated Christmas Tree on the Recreation Ground by kind permission of the Village Hall Management Committee. We invite you therefore to come and join us for half an hour's carols round the tree from 7.45 p.m. to 8.15 p.m. on this evening. The tower handbell ringers will be there and carol sheets will be provided. We hope Christians of all denominations will come and join us. A collection will be taken for Inter-Church Aid. PLEASE MAKE THIS KNOWN AS WIDELY AS POSSIBLE. Wrap up well! and come with your family!

THE PARISH MAGAZINE

From January 1965 our magazine will be larger and contain a new inset, which we hope our readers will enjoy. In view of the rising costs, it has been necessary to raise the price of the magazine to 6d. Those who

order for the year will be able to pay 5/- for the year if they pay at the beginning. We are again most grateful to our advertisers who help us to make this publication possible and thus keep up our monthly circulation of 750 copies. We are always grateful to hear of any who will help to distribute magazines and increase our circulation.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

Of the 120 candidates prepared for confirmation over the past 4 years, some 30% come to Church at least once a month.

25% make at least a monthly communion.

13% come to Church occasionally.

10% rarely.

4% attend Church outside the parish.

Of the remainder 22% have moved from the Parish. 27% do not appear to attend any place of worship regularly.

It is the case so very often that the candidate who only attends the class in order to be "done" and has not been attending Church or children's instruction beforehand rarely continues for long after confirmation. To a large extent the solution lies in the hands of parents who will come with their young people to church before, during and after the confirmation. One Vicar has suggested that confirmation classes should be divided into two parts, leaving a gap of two or three months in between without talks. Certainly the practice of presenting each and every candidate for confirmation seems to encourage a form of Christian practice that is a poor witness to the world outside. Perhaps some candidates who have fallen by the wayside, and who read this will bestir themselves, and make St. Nicholas' Day, 6th December a time to begin again where they left off. Remember — The Church's door is always open to you.

ADULT CONFIRMATION TALKS

There will be an Introductory meeting at the Vicarage on Tuesday, 1st December at 8 p.m. for any adults considering the question of Confirmation. It often happens that, for various reasons, some adults have not been baptised. In such cases the form of preparation for Adult baptism follows closely that of Confirmation and any who have not been baptised are asked to come along to this meeting as well.

MONEY RAISING EFFORTS

The Harvest Supper raised a net profit of over £11 and the Parish Party of over £16. Mrs. Vernede's Bring and Buy Sale, in aid of the Church of England Children's Society raised £30. Thank you to all who organised and patronised these efforts in aid of the work of the Church at Home and Abroad.

Well done! to the Brownies also, who raised £17 at their small Sale of Work—this will go to the work of the Church either at home or abroad.

VISIT OF PASTOR NEIMOLLER

The British and Foreign Bible Society has invited Dr. Martin Neimoller to speak at a special service at St. Mary the Virgin, Oxford, on December 13th at 8 p.m. Many will remember the heroic stand Dr. Neimoller made against Hitler during the last war. Dr. Neimoller is a present President of the Luterran Church of Hesse and Nassau. Please make a note of the service in your diary.

NEWS FROM THE ORGANISATIONS

It is a long time since we received any news from our Youth Organisations. Certainly they have not been inactive, but have very full programmes

which may account for our lack of information. I hope their "scribes" will let us have some news of their activities in the near future (typewritten if possible please!).

RINGERS NOTES

Padbury is another tower upon whose bells members of Marston Tower have rung a peal. We were pleased to welcome John Walker back to our peal band. Fritwell was the tower at which Leonard Porter gained his first peal of minimus. After the peal the band was entertained to tea by the Tower Captain and his wife. The smell of cider was too strong for certain members of the tower when they visited the Glastonbury area with the Ifley ringers.

Members have attended meetings at Garsington and Cuddesdon and Winslow. The Winslow meeting was the Autumn meeting of the Oxford Diocesan Guild. In September the Ringers welcomed the University of Liverpool Society (The Mersey Sound?) and Ringers from Culham, Reading and Warborough. The Ringers were the guests of the Radley Ringers where they were entertained to supper on the school playing field after ringing. Quarter-peals have been rung at Marston and St. Thomas. At St. Thomas, two of the North Hinksey Ringers who had attended practice evenings in City Churches organised by the Marston Ringers, rang their first quarter. At the Marston Quarter Miss Julie Chandler was welcomed back into the team. Several young people have come forward to train as Church Bellringers, but there is room for a few more. If you are interested — practices are on Tuesdays (silent) and Fridays at 7.30 p.m.

HOLY BAPTISM

- Oct. 25. Suzanne Elizabeth Bryan, 31 Minchery Road, Littlemore.
 Sarah Jane Hosier, 24 Haynes Road.
 James Robert Hilary Washington, Oak Lodge, Church Lane.
 Penelope Jane Love, 22 Raymund Road.
 Philip Ian Loveday, 7 Longfield Court, Bicester.
 Silma Jane Marsh, 59 Rippington Drive.
- Nov. 8. Michael Christopher Carrington, 37 Raymund Road.
 Judith Ann Harris, 15 Cavendish Drive.

HOLY MATRIMONY

- Oct. 31. Janet Eden and Derek Charles Dean.

IN MEMORIAM

- Oct. 23. Alice Louisa Ross, aged 84.
 Nov. 7. Amy Mason. Service at Crematorium.
 Nov. 14. Mary Haynes. Service at St. Anthony of Padua.

COLLECTION AND COMMUNICANTS

		£	s.	d.	Communicants
Oct. 11th.	Trinity XX ...	28	2	6	22
Oct. 18th.	Trinity XXI ...	17	2	11	75
Oct. 25th.	Trinity XXII ...	20	2	0	53
Nov. 1st.	All Saints Day ...	28	14	8	107

No. of week-day communicants — 38.



And He shall come again with glory to judge the quick and the dead

● **The OTHER HALF of ADVENT**

By the Headmaster of The King's School

PAGE TWO

THE words of the Nicene Creed, *And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead* are so familiar that we say or sing them without really thinking what they mean, or that here is an integral part of the Christian faith.

Yet the season of Advent comes as a reminder, and in Advent there are two themes subtly interwoven.

You see them in the Advent collect which is to be repeated each day until Christmas Eve—Christ our Redeemer and Christ our Judge. Nor must we separate them, for judgement is tempered by mercy, and love without discipline becomes mere sentiment.

That is why, before we turn to greet our Lord at Bethlehem, we are bidden to think of His coming again in glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead.

First, Judge and then, Redeemer—even though it seems to reverse the natural order of things.

There are many good Christian people who object to the ante-dating of Christmas which is so common nowadays and which means that the great festival comes suddenly to an end just when it should be beginning: certainly when the first Christmas card arrives in mid-November I greet it with horror.

You may notice too an occasional protest at the angels and other religious symbols in the decorations put up in the streets by enterprising municipalities or chambers of commerce; but they have their answer—that without such symbols they would have been accused of ignoring the true meaning

The other half of Advent

of Christmas altogether.

So it isn't very easy; and when Father Christmas comes to town early in November I find my own objection stems largely from its incongruity, for it follows hard upon the Festival of All Saints and the yearly season of Remembrance.

These things are hard to reconcile, yet that need not deter us from attempting a true appraisal.

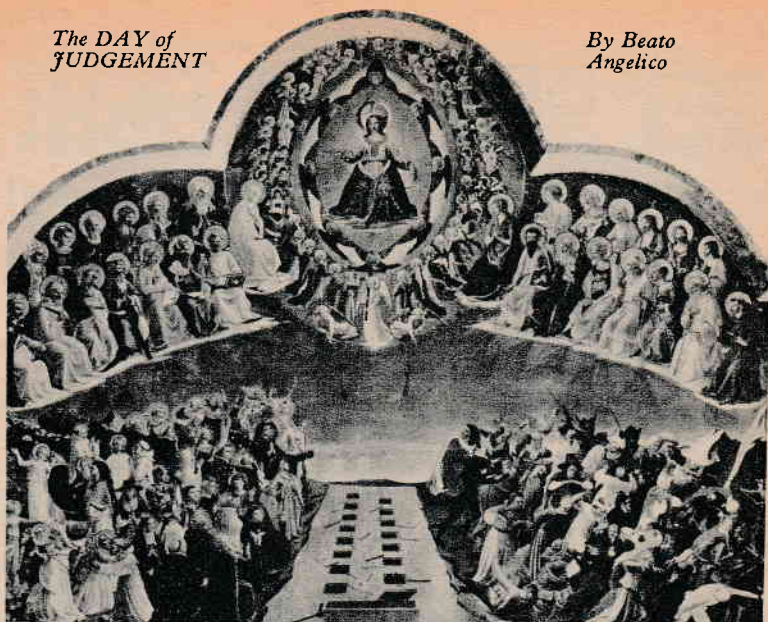
Has it not occurred to you how always and especially these days we live on two planes of existence? There is the ordinary daily round of business and pleasure, of work and recreation. And there is the world of affairs where things move ever faster and everyone knows too much too soon, the world of crisis and terror where the nations high up the slopes of a volcano cannot resist, every now and again, the temptation to peer over the rim of hell until—so far—the smell of sulphur drives them back.

Somehow we have to live in both worlds, and on the whole I suppose we make a passable job of it—though we shall do a great deal better if we remember more often a third world, the world of the spirit which we may enter at will for comfort, strength and inspiration, whose other name is the Kingdom of Heaven and which is ours by inheritance.

Three worlds to reconcile—but that is the condition of our earthly existence.

And thus in Advent there are two thoughts to bring together—Christ as

* *The oldest public school (founded Canterbury A.D. 604).*



our Judge and Christ as our Redeemer. No doubt as time passes it is the latter which wins the day, but it is wrong to anticipate.

This is almost the season of reports—and what a wonderfully English institution reports are! We all make jokes about them, but we all do in fact take them very seriously. Their value to parents is great, to their sons incalculable.

Why? Because *there* is an assessment of progress as objective as it can be made, and *there* too is a glimpse of the future, for the good schoolmaster will see the boy not just as he is but as what, by grace and his own efforts and a little judicious encouragement, he will one day become.

And is that not a parable? No doubt in Heaven, with his celestial card-index system, the Recording Angel can assess at each instant of time and with unflinching accuracy the progress (or lack of it) of each one of us.

But that is, as it were, an interim judgement.

For God will see us and judge us, not just as what we are but as what by His mercy we may one day become.

And in the end, if there is condemnation, may it not be that, in the light of the fuller knowledge of what with His help we might have been, we by Christ's standard condemn ourselves?

Certainly life without some final appraisal would seem incomplete, and in this world of shifting values it is that note which Advent sounds.

There is in a little church in Cornwall a memorial to Cornelius Cardew, priest and schoolmaster, who lived and died nearly two centuries ago. It bears these words in Latin: *What sort of man he was the last day shall tell, and may God Best and Greatest deal kindly with him*

I like the finality, the simplicity, the charity of those words. No doubt there are ups and downs, setbacks and disappointments; yet to Him who sees all the pattern of our life makes sense, to Him (for He can read it) the graph it traces is intelligible enough.

GET INTO THE FIGHT

against world poverty, hunger and disease!

CHRISTIAN AID NEEDS YOUR HELP

Poverty creates slums. In Nairobi, an industrial training centre served by Christian Aid is getting to the roots of the problem.



There's no let up in this struggle. Indeed, because of Christian Aid and the missions, the Churches are steadily *intensifying* their efforts to meet human need everywhere.

Because of Christian Aid there are farm schools, training centres, land reclamation and resettlement schemes, housing projects, and medical clinics operating in needy areas.

Because of Christian Aid relief supplies are rushed to communities stricken by earthquakes, hurricanes, droughts or floods.

Because of Christian Aid you have the means of reaching out to all in need. Get into the fight *now*.

YOUR PERSONAL PLAN OF ACTION

1. Send a gift to **CHRISTIAN AID**.
2. Suggest that your local church sets aside a special day when all collections are devoted to **CHRISTIAN AID**.

Many churches already do this.

CHRISTIAN AID
Affiliated to the Freedom from Hunger Campaign
THE BRITISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
10 EATON GATE, LONDON, S.W.1.

Barred from Church?

ON leaving the Church Assembly recently the Archbishop of Canterbury read, on a large, poster-like display: *Is your church barred to some? You don't think so—but are you sure?*

Dr. Ramsey was glad to be photographed beside it and said he was wholeheartedly in favour of the campaign of which it was part.

The display centred round a life-sized photograph of a woman on crutches and a man in a wheelchair, baulked by a vast flight of steps to a church, for the Central Council for the Disabled is trying to make public buildings more accessible to the handicapped.

In truth, places of worship are the worst offenders. Huge steps, slippery floors, no hand-rails and no provision for stiff legs are but some of the shortcomings.

The trouble is that until comparatively recently the disabled were accepted as part of the general scene. Little could be done for them.

Modern thinking has it otherwise. "You can't design every public building to cope with the disabled," say some folk. The Central Council for the Disabled says you can, and should.

Ramps to by-pass steps are not expensive, nor are haul-lines or handgrips.

Though medicine is winning some battles (as in polio) it has only just begun others (as with muscular dystrophy). Paradoxically, though people live longer through its advances, medicine now has more elderly people—prone to ailments—to cope with. On the accident front the roads alone are now responsible for 80,000 serious injuries a year.

The Central Council strives to interest local authorities, architects, surveyors, land developers and in fact all responsible for major buildings. Provision for the disabled is easiest in the case of new construction but a lot can be done to existing buildings.

The Central Council retains a research architect and can supply leaflets, plans, and advice on design for the disabled. These are available on application to: The Administrator, 34 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.—G. A. G. BROOKE





Please God . . . Where is my Mummy ?

This is the heart-rending cry of so many children, whose small worlds have fallen apart; who have suffered the misery of broken homes, neglect, or the death of those they love. They are our children.

Every year 5,000 deprived children find happiness and comfort through the Society; either in one of the 103 'family homes' or through foster parents, or through adoption. Mending the shattered lives of these children is an immense task and the cost is borne wholly by voluntary contribution. Help if you can—just send your donation to the address given below.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Children's Society

2 OLD TOWN HALL · KENNINGTON
LONDON SE11



John Groom's Crippleage was founded in 1866. The need then was to provide a home, training and employment for disabled women. That need continues and a number of organisations are helping to meet it.

Changing times bring different needs and new opportunities. Groom's are currently re-appraising the social scene, to discover new opportunities of helping the disabled. This re-appraisal has led them to open two homes at Edgware for 36 seriously disabled young women—most of them so disabled that they will always be confined to their wheel-chairs. A third home is planned.

This re-appraisal and the action that ensues, represents conscientious stewardship, ensuring that funds entrusted to them are utilised in helping the disabled in the best possible way as new needs appear. As more funds are available, more work can be undertaken.

John Groom's Crippleage

DEPT (20) . EDGWARE WAY . EDGWARE
MIDDLESEX

Founded 1866. A voluntary Christian Society registered in accordance with the National Assistance Act, 1948.



HOME FOR CHRISTMAS?

. . . . for the seafarer, only if he is lucky. For the majority it will be Christmas at sea or in a port far from home and family.

In more than 80 ports the Flying Angel will help seamen of many nationalities to enjoy Christmas in an atmosphere of Christian fellowship.

Please help us to maintain this ministry.

General Secretary:

Rev. Prebendary

Cyril Brown, O.B.E., M.A.

THE MISSIONS TO SEAMEN

4 Buckingham Palace Gardens,
London, S.W.1

REMINING
ourselves of
our original definition
of prayer
as conversation
with God, we
should remember
that the essential
requirement
of good conversation
is give-and-take.

Both parties
must do their
share of the talking;
otherwise what you get
is a monologue
—and that, of course,
is death to conversation.

The same holds true
of conversation with God.
Perhaps the most important
times of prayer are those
precious minutes of silence
at the end, when we try to
treat God with a little of the
courtesy and consideration
He invariably extends to us;
when we give Him a chance,
so to speak, to "get a word
in edgewise"; when we listen
with reverent patience for any
message of guidance, comfort,
strengthening and hope which
may come into our minds and
hearts.

Because, you see, prayer—
real prayer—is, or ought to be,
a two-way traffic. For what
God has to say to us is vastly
more important than what we
have to say to Him.

Yet a great many of us
seldom do listen. I suspect
that a terrible lot of prayer
consists of kneeling down,
rattling off set-pieces—
mostly, perhaps, "asking"—
and then going back to our
worldly preoccupations
without a thought for the
Friend at the other end of
the line.

When we conclude our
prayers in this abrupt and
discourteous way it surely
comes ill from us

Teaching ourselves . . .



5—Listen.

But come the answer will.

Nor should we be disturbed
if the answer is different from
what we expected. The wise
parent knows what is best for
the child, and the loving Father
of all men knows better than we
can ever know wherein our true
interests lie.

If, then, we are prepared to
listen for answers to prayer and
messages from God, how are we
to recognize them?

Let us be clear at once on one
point: It is most improbable we
shall hear the audible tones of
Divine Truth, as Samuel did in
the night at Shiloh, as John the
Baptist did before Jordan, or as
Peter, James and John did at
the Transfiguration. That
method God has reserved for a
few elect souls only.

More likely it is through the
inward ear of conscience that
the message will reach us, in a
still, small voice *soft as the breath
of even*. It is the soul which
enables us to recognize His
speaking.

to complain that
God seldom
seems to answer
our prayers.
How can He if
we consistently
deny Him the
opportunity?

If only we can
teach ourselves
to *listen*, we may
find tremendous
surprises in store
for us in the way
of answers to
requests, as well
as messages and
pointers in mat-
ters about which
we may not even
have asked for
guidance.

Not that those
answers will
necessarily be
forthcoming at
once. We may
have to wait.

HOW TO PRAY

A series of six articles : By **The Rev. H. A. L. RICE**

Author of *Thomas Ken; Prayer-book Heritage; The Bridge-Builders, etc.*

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
 ☆ THE singing of carols dates from the time of St. Francis of Assisi, who made the first Christmas crib.

☆☆ The members of his order sang hymns in honour of Advent to combat a very ancient heresy called Manicheism, which contended that all matter was evil and thus denied the Virgin Birth of Christ.

☆☆ We owe to the Reformers not only the despoiling of churches and the breaking up of organs but also the suppression of carol-singing and an attempt to suppress Christmas itself.

☆☆ In 1652 Parliament ordered that 'no observations shall be had of the 25th of December, commonly called Christmas Day'. Diarist John Evelyn was arrested for taking Communion on that day, and the Puritans also tried to have the Psalms sung to popular tunes of the period.

☆☆ However, we do not always realise that carolling (the old French *carole* signified a dance in a ring) was formerly identified with dancing as well as singing. The Romans and Druids had their ritual dances (Stonehenge, resembling dancers in a ring, was known as *Choir-gaur*, the Giants' Dance or 'carol') and the custom found its way into the early Christian Church.

☆☆ Nor was carolling confined to Christmas: up to the 17th century apprentices danced in York Minster on Shrove Tuesday. It also had its part in the miracle and mystery plays. The tune *Orientis Partibus* we now use for the hymn 'Soldiers who are



THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT

—of the carol 'O little town of Bethlehem' has recently come to light. Phillips Brooks, who wrote the words, was Rector of Holy Trinity, Philadelphia, and they were set to music by his organist and Sunday school superintendent, Chas. Redner.

At the time (in the 1860s) neither imagined that the piece would become immortal.—CHARLES BANCROFT.

Carols aren't only f

Christ's below' was originally sung by a girl who rode to church on an ass with a baby in her arms for the Donkey's Festival.

At first carols were sung as interludes but later were performed during scenes of the plays, the singers being accompanied by a man with a small organ strapped to his shoulders. Sometimes the procession marched from the stage into the streets.

When Christmas was over the folk of the Middle Ages still sang carols, though often on a more mournful note. A 16th-century one runs: *Christmas hath made an end, well-a-day, well-a-day, Lent is fast coming on that loves not anyone . . .*

An old Latin tune *Tempus adest floridum* now serves for Good King Wenceslas, but it was originally meant as a spring carol. The earliest known rota or 'round' was written in the 13th century by John of Fornsete, a monk

By the Rev. Dr.

T. H. CRONCHEY

Mus. Doc, FRCO

of Reading—*Sumer is i-cumen in.*

Earlier still, in the 12th century, in an Epiphany play 'the Three Kings' characters depicting Herod, shepherds, angels and the Wise Men entered from different parts of the church singing carols and offering gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. One of the Wise Men was black.

Most of the tunes in those days were of the folksong order and used indiscriminately for religious and secular words. A good example of a popular tune adapted for carol purposes is *Greensleeves*.

The melody we use for 'While the shepherds praise' and for the hymn 'Jesus, good above all other' is a 14th-century German dance tune called *Liedlein*. The *Furry-day Song* (The Floral Dance) was sung to different words at Christmas and on

or Christmas

May Day, when a fiddler led dancers on the village green.

The fine old tune *Conditor alme siderum* which serves for our Advent hymn 'Creator of the starry height' was adapted by Bach to one of his choral preludes.

In fact, carols did not possess 'proper' tunes, but were sung to any well-known melody which happened to fit them. Sometimes there was more than one tune: *God rest you merry, gentlemen* has two.

The first carol to be printed, after Caxton's invention of the press, seems to be *I saw three ships come sailing in*.

In his book *Psalms, Sonets and Songs of Sadnes and Pietie* William Byrd, organist of Lincoln Cathedral at 20, wrote in 1588 that carolling 'doth strengthen all parts of the brest and open the pipes' and is 'a singular good remedie for stutting and stamering in the speech'.

The first 'round':

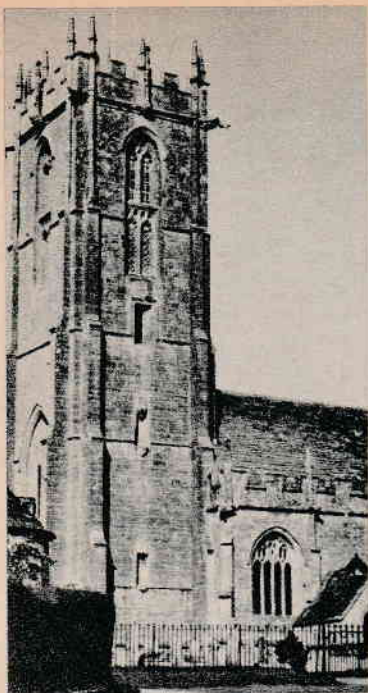
Sum. at is a
cum. ing in: bond. a
Sing Creath... oo

'Greensleeves' was a love-song—

—and this a dance-tune:

While the shepherds praise wor
bringing Jesus the Ang. el
voices sing. ing

Originally the Furry Song



The night the tower went

ONE of our parishioners—Mrs. Greenham, who is now 92 and has served in the choir for 77 years—can recall the night of July 29, 1894, when the 16th-century tower of Norton-sub-Hamdon Church, Somerset, was struck by lightning, and the resulting fire completely destroyed its six bells and left the tower an empty shell.

The following morning a collection was made for repairs, and the re-cast bells with new roof and ringing chamber were restored and re-dedicated on July 29, 1895—a year to the day.

On July 29 ever since a service of Thanksgiving has been held on the tower roof, when the *Te Deum* is always sung. It is surely appropriate that one of the new bells carries the inscription: *From lightning and tempest, Good Lord deliver us.*—(REV.) C. C. E. MEREDITH (Rector).



Church Notes . .

First cabbage?

ON the tomb of Sir Anthony Ashley, in the church at Wimborne St. Giles, Dorset, is a curiously-carved stone ball.

Sir Anthony, who was Clerk of the Privy Council to Elizabeth I, is said to have introduced the cabbage into this country, and the stone ball on his tomb is said to represent the first cabbage grown in England.—PETER McGOW (DORRING).

Spring-clean

THE beautiful south door at Barfrestone Church, Dover, has had a spring-clean. Experts using cold water and finely-tipped brushes, have cleaned away dirt and lichen accumulated over nearly 1000 years.

The Vicar, the Rev. E. Hessing, hopes to continue the cleaning of the church, which is noted for its fine carving and sculpture. Barfrestone is said to be the the smallest parish in England—only 466 acres.—ELISABETH ARTER (CHILHAM, CANTERBURY).

Meaning of the token



COMMUNION tokens like this one from the Established Church of Scotland at Perth were in use as early as 1560 in the Reformed Church in France. They were also used in Geneva and Holland.

Those who were given a token were entitled to attend the Communion service and when they surrendered their token they gave the church authorities some idea how many had attended.

Most of the tokens were made of lead though some of the later 19th century "stock" variety are made of white metal alloy. The parish records of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, designates them as "Communion half-pence."—J. C. L. LYDDIETH (PERTH).

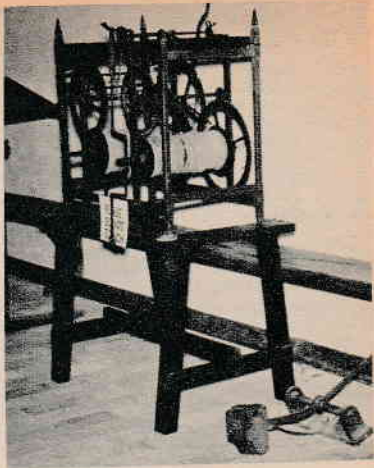
.. and Views



Old clock

THE very large church in the very small village of Dennington, Suffolk, houses some curious museum pieces, including this medieval clock; a similar one in working order can be seen in Salisbury Cathedral.

There are some curiously-carved pew ends in the church, including one of a man lying on his back with feet as large as skis waving in the air. He is described as belonging to the "Sciapods, a fabulous Lybian race who used their enormous feet as parasols."—(MISS) MARY CORBETT HARRIS (BELTINGE, HERNE BAY).



* * Contributions are invited for this page and are paid for upon publication—with an extra rate for photographs used. They should be addressed to *Home Words*, 11 Ludgate Square, London EC4 (with s.a.e. for return if unsuitable).

Ever-present

OUR Vicar, the Rev. John Eric Rigg, of Packington, near Ashby-de-la-Zouch, has completed nearly 53 years without missing a Sunday service since he was ordained in 1911.

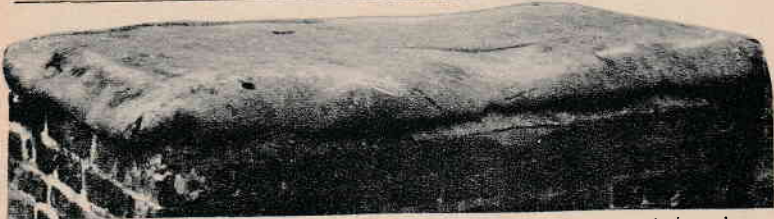
For eleven years Mr. Rigg was a missionary in China and came to Packington with Normanton-le-Heath in 1952.—GEORGE BROWN (Vicar's Warden).

Ships' church

THE nave of Stoke Damerel Church, Devonport, has a decidedly nautical appearance, while the interior of the clergy vestry is not unlike that of an officer's cabin aboard the *Victory*.

This dates from about 1750, when the 15th century building was enlarged, the navy providing much of the materials. Ships' masts still serve as pillars to support the roof and nave, ships' knees and beams as roof trusses, and cabin fittings as doors.

Many seamen have their monuments there. Captain Tobias Furneaux, the explorer, first man to circumnavigate the world in both directions, rests beside the north porch.—RAYMOND LEE (STOKE, PLYMOUTH).



Sharpener

AT this tomb which stands near the entrance to St. Clement's, Leigh-on-Sea, it is said "sailors, and no doubt buccanniers, who sailed the Spanish Main,

did stop to put edge upon their cutlasses before going to sea."

The shape of the sandstone lid suggests that the story may well be true.—P. GOWERS (ROXWELL, ESSEX).

MONDAY—Washing

A small teaspoonful of cream of tartar to each bucketful of cold water in your boiler or washing-machine will help to bring stains, dirt, and discolouration out of whites and will not affect fast colours. Simply add the cream of tartar when you are putting in soap powder or detergent. It must be put in cold water and stirred before washing.—(MISS) A. I. HANAM (SALISBURY).

TUESDAY—Sewing

Be prepared for patching! Here is an economy tip for mothers of small children. Always buy jeans a little too long. After allowing for hems, cut off to the right length and save the material for late-mending. It will then match exactly.—(MRS.) T. E. RYDER (ILFORD).

WEDNESDAY—First Aid

An emergency remedy when children or older people knock themselves or fall and expect bruising is to lay over the area as quickly as possible two or three freshener-up-pads available from every chemist. These will help take out any soreness pending further attention.—(MRS.) A. E. GOODMAN (MELTON MOWBRAY).

THURSDAY—Cooking

A delicious grapefruit marmalade can be made from 1½ grapefruits, 2 medium-sized lemons, ½ oz. of root ginger, 2½ pints of cold water, 3 lb. of lump sugar.

Wash the grapefruit and the lemons. Remove rind without taking away the white. Mince finely and put into a pan. Crush the ginger. Remove skin and pith, cut the fruit into small pieces. Reserve pips and tie in a piece of clean muslin with the ginger. Add to the pan holding the rinds. Add the water and bring all to the boil.



*. If you know of a good hint for our household pages, send it to the Editor, Women's Page, 11, Ludgate Square, London, E.C.4. We offer six 5s. prizes every month.

Reduce heat and simmer until the peel is tender and the liquid reduced by half (about 30 minutes). Remove from the heat and discard the muslin-bag of pips and ginger. Add sugar and stir until it is dissolved. Bring to the boil and boil rapidly for about 25 minutes. This makes about 4 lb.—(MISS) D. CLARKE (MARKET RASEN).

FRIDAY—Household

To prepare winter boots which have been stored away, rub the zips (being careful not to grease the suede) with a candle. This will help to keep them smooth-running and they will not tarnish.—(MRS.) MURIEL J. LUKE (ST. AUSTELL).

SATURDAY—Children

Oil on clothes from cycles. Try blotting up as much of the oil as you can with a paper tissue or two. Then rub the affected area with a spot of pure lard. Wash afterwards in the usual manner.—(MRS.) E. M. DIXON (WAKEFIELD).

THE PREACHER

"The sermon's too lengthy!"—"The sermon's so dry!"

"The sermon is tedious!"—"The sermon's a bore!"

The people are restless, they fidget and sigh;

Their eyelids are drooping, and—was that a snore?

The preacher is given a Message to speak;

He knows how unworthy he is for the task,

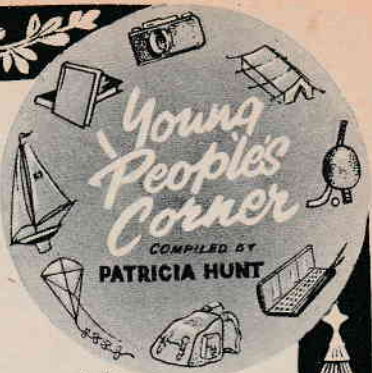
But he prays that his flock with forbearance may seek

To find there God's Word—is it too much to ask?

JENNIE AUSTERBERRY.



PUFFIN
says
THANK YOU



ON Boxing Day everyone at the Vicarage was busy writing thank-you letters for Christmas presents. No one had time to play with Puffin, the Vicar's cat, and he was rather bored.

Of course, he couldn't write, so he didn't have to do thank-you letters; anyway, his mistress always wrote to thank people for him.

Puffin stretched himself, and decided to walk down to the church to have another look at the Christmas crib.

So he went down to the church and into the Children's Corner. Yes, there was the crib, with the Baby in the manger, and all the people looking at Him with such loving expressions.

You could tell they were worshipping Him. Mary and Joseph were bending forward, the shepherds were kneeling, and even the animals—the cows and asses and the sheep who had come with the shepherds—were all looking

towards Jesus.

Suddenly, it came to Puffin that what they were all doing was saying 'thank-you' to God for sending His Son, Jesus, into the world.

This, he thought, was even better than sending a thank-you letter.

He had often heard his master telling the people they should thank God, and that the best way to do it was to live the sort of life He would like, worshipping God and serving others.

Well, even people who couldn't write at all, thought Puffin, could say thank-you to God in that way. He bowed his head reverently towards the manger, and walked quietly out of the church.

A WRONG IDEA

An Indian student who had come to Britain said: "Everyone seems to be too busy displaying

the number and variety of Christmas cards to have time to think of the Birth of Christ."

Bible Puzzle

Which is the odd one out in these groups?
Angels, disciples, shepherds, wise men.
Matthew, Luke, Amos, Timothy.
Philip, Peter, Judas, Lazarus, Thomas.

We would feel very hurt if our old friends forgot all about us on our birthdays; and we must never forget that if God hadn't sent Jesus into the world, there would not be a Christmas at all. It is the duty of every Christian to be in church on Christmas Day. We can then have presents and parties and fun after worship, for God wants us all to be happy.

Answers: Page 15.

WHAT are we DOING?

By WARD SMITH
THE British Medical Association recently

—September's front page

THANK you very much for the positive and forthright article by Mrs Whitehouse in *Home Words* (*What we demand of TV*).

Like the Rev. P. N. R., whose letter was printed in the same issue, I have in the past been critical of some features of *Home Words*, but am now glad of the opportunity to say how thankful I am to have its straight teaching and attractive articles.

St John's, (Rev.) J. E. B. WALKER
 Higher Broughton. Rector

Ask M.P.s !

CONGRATULATIONS on the powerful front page of your September issue. At Evensong here we included a reference to it and urged hearers to consider carefully: *What are we doing?*

Every churchman should ask his MP where he stands on the great moral issue. Tadley, ERNEST ROBINSON
 Basingstoke. (Reader, Tadley St Peter)

Heartening

WHEN I get my church news I always open it at the centre to see the *Home Words* section, as it is full of good, outspoken truths and a sense of Christian vitality leading to action.

I feel especially grateful for the challenging article of Ward Smith and the story of the action being taken over TV by the women of the Midlands.

Kingston Bagpuize (Lady) IRENE SQUIRE
 Berks.

TV: 'A moral victory'

BEST wishes to you and the sponsors of the Clean-TV campaign in your noble efforts to eradicate excessive emphasis on vice and immorality.

The television authorities have seen the light, at least, and are keeping a watchful eye, modifying or omitting some doubtful programmes, so a moral victory can be claimed.

Two prominent theatre men have protested against kitchen-sink drama, and an ITA audience survey reveals that more than half of viewers think there is too much sex and violence on TV.

St Mark's, (Rev.) DAVID W. QUINN
 Cheetham Hill, Rector
 Manchester.

'Reprint them'

I WANT to congratulate you on your September issue, giving space and publicity to such vitally important matters, through the articles by Ward Smith and Mary Whitehouse.

My only plea is: Could these two articles be reprinted?

South Croydon. B. M. GOULD

Forthright

MAY I thank you most warmly for the forthright article in the September number. It is good to see a number of people now joining in the protest against the dirt and depravity in so many plays.

London, W.1. (Rev.) HALLEN VINEY

Relevant

As a distributor of our parish magazine I want to express my appreciation of your series *The World around us*. The issue is so relevant—really going to the heart of the matter.

Cuckfield, Sx. (Mrs) JOYCE GREIG

From the Rev. J. G. E. WALSH,
 Doddington Vicarage, Nantwich, Cheshire.

Many of our friends say how much they enjoy Home Words - I am always delighted when they say it - because of course I think they mean my fault - it is most deplating to find it is yours!
 Best wishes
 W. Walsh

Bible Crossword competition

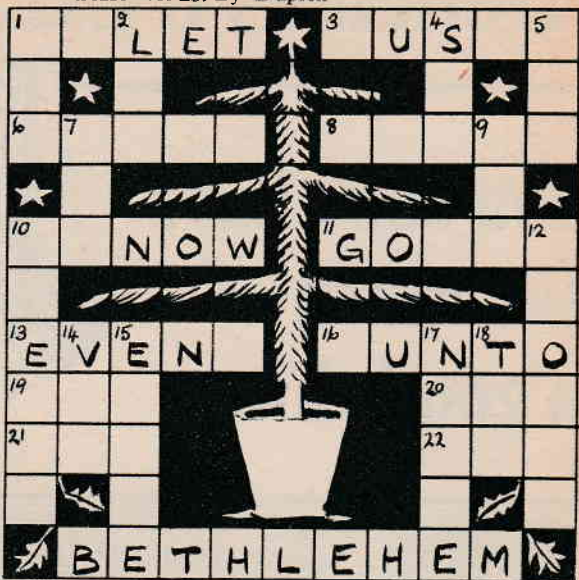
Puzzle No. 23. By 'Duplex'

ACROSS

1. Son of Jahdai. (5)
3. He bowed himself unto Joab. (5)
6. King of Israel. (5)
8. "... be holy and without ——" (5)
10. "This ——" bone of my bones." (2, 3)
11. "And sold their possessions and ——" (5)
13. "... one happeneth to them all." (5)
16. "... his ——" rise on the evil." (3, 2)
19. Region. (3)
20. Wise virgins had plenty of it. (3)
21. "Abraham set seven — lambs." (3)
22. Insect in the land of Assyria. (3)

DOWN

1. "Judah is written with a — of iron." (3)
2. Built by the son of Elpaal. (3)
4. Children of the Nethinims. (3)
5. Likened unto morsels. (3)
7. Jesus rode upon a young one. (3)
9. "He hath a devil and is —." (3)
10. "... a garden eastward ——" (2, 4)
12. "Judah — thee away." (6)
14. What Jacob vowed to God. (3)
15. "How long will it be ——" (3, 2)
17. Said of Festus. (5)
18. "... heart, and — them about thy neck." (3)



Entries should be addressed to *Home Words*, 11 Ludgate Square, London, EC4 (marked clearly 'Crossword No. 23' on the envelope). A prize of £1 ls. will go to the first correct solution opened on the 15th of this month. The winning competitor will be notified by post, and lists of prizewinners and solutions will be published from time to time.



Ringers' board

A CONTRIBUTOR to Church Notes and Views recently mentioned verses found in the belfry of St. Endellion's, Treleigh, Redruth, Cornwall. The parish church at Treleigh is dedicated to St. Stephen. My father, the late Rev. J. T. Phillips, was Vicar of Treleigh from 1932-40 and

I cannot recall any verses in the belfry, which suggests that your correspondent is thinking of another church. Wheatley, Oxon. (Mrs.) J. T. PERRY

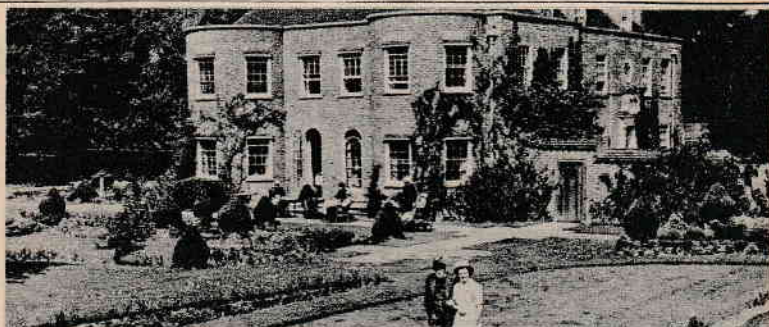
THE Rev. H. F. Hawkins was misinformed: the prebendal church of St. Endellion, where I have seen the ringers' board, is nowhere near Redruth but lies on the road near Port Isaac. Putney, S.W. (Rev.) A. H. BUTLER REEVE

ANSWERS

—to Bible Puzzle, Young People's Corner: *Disciples* are the only ones not connected with Christmas; *Amos* is a book in the Old Testament (the others are books in the New Testament); *Lazarus* is not one of the twelve Apostles.

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too much of
a good thing



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CHRISTMAS SERVICES 1964

CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICES :

Sunday, December 20th. 6.30 p.m.

Christmas Eve 7.30 p.m.

(Admission by free ticket only).

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from Mr. B. G. Oliver, Chemist.

CHRISTMAS EVE :

11.30 p.m. Midnight Communion
(with carols and address).

CHRISTMAS DAY :

7 a.m., 8 a.m., and noon : Holy Communion

11.0 a.m. Family Mattins.

5.30 p.m. Evensong (said).

PAUL N. RIMMER

Vicar.

“O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!”

We send CHRISTMAS GREETINGS to all our Advertisers, who have helped during the year to make the publication of our Magazine possible :

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