With compliments
M Stokes

PRICE 3*d*. OCTOBER, 1957

MARSTON NEWS

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR-DESIGNATE

Dear People of Marston,

My wife and I are greatly looking forward to coming to live amongst you in the near future. I have heard so much already about your parish and your beautiful church that I count it a great privilege to have been called to minister to you.

My first aim will be to get to know you all as quickly as I can: unfortunately I have a very bad memory for names, and I must ask you to be patient with me if I have to ask you your name more than once. I hope that you will always feel that you may come and confide in me, whatever your Church denomination may be; and I assure you that I shall not try to persuade you to become a member of the Church of England. My one earnest desire, ever since becoming a Christian myself, has been to share with all men my faith in the risen, living and loving Lord Jesus Christ. Naturally, if you should come and join us in our worship at St. Nicholas regularly week by week, I should suggest to you that you seriously consider becoming a full, communicant member of the Church of England. But, as I have said, whether you worship with us regularly or not at all, I hope you will always feel free to come and see me about any matter.

I cannot close this short letter to you without expressing some form of appreciation to your "retiring" Vicar. I know only too well how much you will all miss Mr. Savage, because he really has been a true servant of God amongst you. Already I can thank God myself for all that he has accomplished in these past few years; and I do indeed thank him for preparing the ground so well. I shall endeavour to continue much upon the same lines, though naturally it would be wrong simply to try and copy him in every way; we must all make our own contributions.

Do come along to the Service of Institution by the Bishop of Oxford at 7.30 p.m. on October 31st if you can; your presence will be a great source of encouragement to me. May I invite you to pray for me as I take up the work as your Vicar.

My wife joins me in sending you our very good wishes. May God bless you and your homes.

Your sincere friend,

LESLIE WRIGHT.

Thought for the Month: Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things will be added unto you (St. Matthew, ch. 6, v. 33).

Congratulations to several young people in the parish on gaining their General Certificate of Education, or at "A" level.

Camps. At a Girls' Pathfinder Camp held for a fortnight during August, two girls from St. Nicholas Church, Marston, were privileged to attend. It was their first visit to Torquay, and how thoroughly they enjoyed every moment of it—from the second they woke up in a dormitory with ten other girls to the time they returned to bed, but not always to sleep, because no camp would be complete without its midnight feasts and apple-pie beds!

The girls had a little orderly duty to perform some days, such as washing up, peeling potatoes, and helping generally; but after this they were free to visit many places of interest around Torquay—Paignton Zoo, Brixham Harbour, Dartmouth, Babbacombe, Anstey's Cove, to name only a few places.

At the close of each day we had evening prayers, when several girls yielded their lives to follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

Perhaps another year many more young people—boys as well as girls—will go along to a Pathfinder Camp. If you do, you will never forget it, not even the holly in the bed! — M.S.L.

The Scouts. The Oxford 49th Troop (St. Nicholas, Marston) held a successful Summer Camp in ideal surroundings near Brockenhurst in the New Forest. In spite of a lot of heavy rain and a high wind which blew two tents down at 2.0 a.m. one morning, the Scouts spent an active and enjoyable week; and some Scouts hitch-hiked as far as Bournemouth, Southampton and Portsmouth.

The Scout Troop is now able to take some recruits; and it is hoped to form a patrol for Seniors (fifteen and over). Any boys interested should make contact with Roy Jones, 118 Oxford Road.

The Bible. A completely new edition of the American Revised Standard Version of the Bible can now be obtained for only 12/6. During the past five years since the first publication of this edition over five million copies have been sold.

By using newly-discovered manuscripts — some of them more than one thousand years older than those available to the translators of the Authorised and Revised Versions — the compilers of the R.S.V. have corrected many mistranslations.

The English language has changed considerably since 1611 when the Authorised Version was made, but this new version substitutes the living language of today without losing the grandeur of the old text.

Library Books. What do you do other than watch TV during the winter evenings? A worthwhile hobby is to read the books supplied by the Mobile County Library Service, which visits Marston every week. No charge is made if books are overdue! Any number of books may also be borrowed. Books on travel, biography, the arts, cooking, gardening, fiction, and many other topics may be obtained. Requests for new books are also received. The van visits the White Hart (alternate weeks) on Thursday evenings from 5.50 to 6.10 p.m., but every week on the same evening at Mortimer Drive from 6.15 to 7 p.m.

Young Wives' Group. The Group recommences on Wednesday, October 2nd, in the Reading Room at 7.45 p.m. All young mothers and young women will be most welcome. The meetings are on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. Leader: Mrs. A. Smith, 4 Windsor Crescent.

Autumn Activities. Many other activities have recommenced; for further particulars see the church porch and notice-boards.

Special Notices.

HARVEST FESTIVAL.—Sunday, October 13th. *Services*: Holy Communion, 8.15 a.m.; Morning Prayer, 11 a.m.; United Children's Service, 3 p.m.; Evening Prayer, 6.30 p.m. (Gifts for decorating the Church will be most welcome on Saturday, 12th, by 10 a.m. in Church.)

INSTITUTION of the Rev. L. V. Wright, Thursday, October 31st, at 7.30 p.m., by the Bishop of Oxford.

THE RESTORATION OF THE CHURCH

The main work, for which estimates with details were printed in the May issue of the *Marston News*, has now been completed, and the accounts passed for payment. The accounts include, besides the £781 18s. 0d., an additional £34 for work found necessary when the roof of the south aisle was more closely inspected. On September 19th there was £809 16s. 7d. in the bank, and it is confidently expected that this sum will have increased to £815 18s. 0d. or more when the account for this sum is paid on October 19th.

Well Done! This means, further to the statement in the February issue of the *Marston News*, that in 1956 and up to September 19th, 1957, the sum of £2,444 14s. 3d. has been raised by the Parish for the Restoration of the Parish Church of St. Nicholas. The actual amount spent on work is £2,383 17s. 8d.

Third Stage of Restoration. During the course of August, the firm of Axtell & Perry sent an estimate for work omitted from the original schedule now considered to be necessary. The details of this are given below. This amounts to £122 5s. 0d., and in view of the comparative smallness of the sum, the Churchwardens decided to put this work in hand forthwith. The order was placed on August 8th, and it is hoped that it may be done before the winter frosts.

Estimate for Third Stage

Chancel: N.E. Angle, 3 quoins; S.E. Angle, 7 quoins.

Entrance Porch: L.H. Side, 2 quoins; R.H. Side, 2 quoins.

Buttress No. 1: 4 quoins.

Buttress No. 2: 2 quoins, one ashlar.

Buttress No. 3: Repairs to base only.

Buttress No. 4: 2 quoins.

To cut out, supply and fix selected-quality Clipsham Stone Masonry as detailed above; to supply all necessary staging, etc., for access to works, cut out and fix the items detailed, delivery of materials and clearing of site upon completion: the sum of One Hundred and Twenty-Two Pounds Five Shillings (£122 5s. 0d.).

The stonework of the West Window of the Tower will require more extensive restoration at a later date, but the stonework is not at present in a condition requiring immediate attention.

The window in the south chancel appears to be leaning out badly, but it has not been included in any specification.

The Restoration Account (up to September 19th):

	£	s.	d.
Carried forward from 1956	42	16	6
Raised in 1957	775	5	7
	818	2	1
Expenses in 1957	8	5	6
Cash in Bank on September 19th, 1957 ..	£809	16	7

All the money for Stage II of the Restoration, costing £815 18s. 0d., will be in hand when the Account is paid on October 19th, a fortnight before the Rev. L. V. Wright is instituted as Vicar. The estimate (see above) for the Third Stage of the Restoration shows that a further £122 5s. 0d. will be needed for this item. Please give generously to the Fund to enable the further item to be paid in 1957.

Donations received for Restoration Fund: August and September. The following have sent a further donation this year: A. W. Priestley, Esq., Dr. and Mrs. C. W. Carter, Miss Elsie Smith, Miss Catherine Barnsley, Mrs. Brierley, Mr. and Mrs. Wren and Jenny, Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance, Canon Brasnett, Mrs. Oglanby, Mr. and Mrs. E. Constable, Mrs. Bing, Mr. and Mrs. Hiles, Mr. and Mrs. Passey, Mr. and Mrs. Sparrowhawk, the Misses E. and I. Broughton, Mrs. Tovey, and Anon.

Boxes and Envelopes. Those who have taken the Church Collecting Boxes and who give in the monthly and weekly envelope scheme are not mentioned by name. The Secretary would like it to be known, however, that the boxes and envelopes have been a wonderful and really remarkable source of steady income to the Fund. We cannot be too grateful to the many who give, and give generously, in this way. The names of those who have boxes and envelopes will be in the porch during October. A very warm "thank you" to them all.

Marston Market. There will be no Market on October 5th because of the institution of our retiring Vicar, the Archdeacon of Buckingham, that day at Whitchurch at 3 p.m., nor on October 12th because of decorating the Church for the Harvest Festival. The last Marston Market will be on Saturday, October 19th, at 10.20 a.m. onwards. This we hope will be a "Super-Market". Please come and bring and buy fruit, flowers, vegetables, cakes, jams, etc.

Holy Baptism. Welcome to the following baptised in St. Nicholas Church: Janet Ann HOWARD, Lesley Joanne GOODNER (May 5th), Hazel Dawn GILL (May 12th), Alan FOLEY, Susan Lorraine GREEN, Keith John JUPP (June 2nd), Alison Grace BROUGH, Jacqueline BUTLER (June 9th), Lesley Caroline MARTIN (June 16th), Judith Ruth CARTER, Wendy AYRES (June 22nd), Stephen Charles CUMMINGS, Amanda Claire HEY (June 30th), Nichola Jayne SMITH, Martin Andrew WEITZ, Christine Anne BELCHER (July 7th), Susan Karen RODERICK (July 7th), Sharon Christina COLLIER (July 14th), Ann Elizabeth LUKER (July 21st), Dawn Susan BOWEN, Sally Ann GURL, Stephen Paul BAKER, Mark James WOODS (July 28th), Richard MESSENGER (August 4th), Mark Anthony COLLEY, Terence CHAULK, Susan Frances EDMONDS, Sandra Jane WELLS (Sept. 1st), Kim Loren KILFOIL, Paul Geoffrey Carleton SMITH, Jane Ann SHEPPARD, Patrick John AVERY (Sept. 8th).

Wedding Bells.

December 8th, 1956.—Lawrence PEACHEY and Patricia Ann WESTON.

March 30th, 1957.—Alan ROGERS and Muriel C. WEEKS.
Frank C. DOWNIE and Kathleen E. PAYNE.

July 8th, 1957.—Bernard F. SANSOM and Prudence A. TOCK.

August 31st, 1957.—James B. HARLEY and Beryl C. HIBBENS.
Paul CROOK and Maureen G. HOLT.

September 7th, 1957.—Ronald P. RICHARDS and Janet G. TOOTH.
Kenneth J. R. JONES and Mavis I. JONES.

September 15th, 1957.—Alexander CHAMBERS and Molvic I. EDWARDS.

Marston News. This issue has been edited by Miss M. S. Liles, who will also produce the November issue, due to be published on October 28th. Items for inclusion should be sent to Miss Liles for her to receive at the Vicarage not later than Friday, October 18th.

Vacancy. The living of Marston will be vacant from October 5th to 30th inclusive. During that time the services are arranged by the sequestrators, who are the two Churchwardens and Rural Dean. Requests for Baptism, etc., should be made either to Miss M. S. Liles, c/o The Vicarage, or to Mr. B. G. Oliver, Old Marston Road Post Office.

Any personal correspondence for the retiring Vicar, not relating to the parish of Marston, should in future be addressed to him at the following address: The Venerable Gordon D. Savage, Whitchurch Vicarage, Aylesbury, Bucks. Telephone: Whitchurch (Bucks) 216.

Voices Wanted! More members are invited to join the Marston Choral Society which meets every Friday from 8 to 9 p.m. in Marston Church School. Members of this Society are performing at the Concert given by the Oxfordshire Villages Musical Association in the Sheldonian Theatre on October 19th.

Sopranos, altos, contraltos and bases are all needed. If you join you can be certain of a very happy and enjoyable evening's outing.

Accommodation Wanted. As Miss Liles' room where she is at present lodging will be required for other purposes in the very near future, she is looking for other suitable lodgings. A bed-sittingroom, furnished or unfurnished, where she can look after herself will be ideal. Miss Liles has several callers from time to time to interview, but we feel that whoever feels they can entertain the possibility of giving her a room will fully appreciate this important factor.

Parish Supper. It was found to be impossible to arrange a Parish Supper before the Harvest Thanksgiving in October this year; but it is hoped that it may be possible to arrange a Supper to welcome the Rev. Leslie and Mrs. Wright sometime before Christmas.

Times Change. The following extract from a Visitation in this parish two hundred years ago gives us some idea how things have changed. We now have over 3,000 parishioners; over 100 scholars in the Sunday Schools; Holy Communion is administered at least once every Sunday. These are only a few of the changes brought by time and progress, yet our beloved

St. Nicholas Church has stood through all these changes and proclaimed the same Christian news of salvation through Jesus Christ. Our Church is eight hundred years old.

ARTICLES OF ENQUIRY ADDRESSED TO THE CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF OXFORD AT THE PRIMARY VISITATION OF DR. THOMAS SECKER, 1738", concerning Marston Parish:

1. The extent of the Parish is two Miles, the number of houses forty-four, and no families of Note in the place; nor any Hamlets or Villages belonging thereto.
2. There are no Papists in the Parish.
3. There are no Presbyterians, Independents nor Anabaptists.
4. There are no Quakers.
5. There are no Persons who profess to disregard Religion, that I know of.
6. I constantly reside upon my cure, having taken a house near the church for that purpose.[1] The Revd. Mr. Price of All Souls College in Oxford is my Curate, and he serves no other Cure.[2]
7. Publick Service is duly performed every Lord's Day and one Sermon Preached; Prayers are read in the Church on Frydays and all Holy Days throughout the year.[3] The Children are catechis'd every Sunday in the afternoon during the Holy season of Lent. They have ye catechism explained to them. I know of no Persons who frequent publick worship that are not baptis'd. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is administ'red five times in ye year and usually thirty Communicants present.
8. There is no Free School Hospital or Alms House in ye Parish.
9. There is No Voluntary Charity School.
10. No lands or Tenements that I know of have been given at any time to Church or poor.
11. The Money collected at ye Sacrament is dispos'd of by me to such of the poor who constantly attend Divine Service and receive the Holy Communion.
12. I know of no other matter relating to the Parish which it is proper to inform yr Lordship of, besides what these answers contain.

John Warner Curate[4]

John Coxe Vicar[5]

(V. Thomas Berdmore 1735–8)

[1] These words are struck out. [2] These words are added in another handwriting. [3] The words "on Frydays . . ." are struck out. [4] These words are crossed through. [5] These words are added in another handwriting. John Coxe was instituted Vicar in 1758.

Oxonian Press, Oxford