

APRIL, 1954

MARSTON NEWS

The News-Letter of St. Nicholas Church, Marston, Oxford.

A MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR.

My dear Friends,

"When you get all wrinkled up with care and worry, it's a good time to get your faith lifted," I read the other day. And a number of people in our parish would humbly testify not that faith removes the cares and worries of life but that faith gives the added strength and grace to carry on cheerfully. It's on that point that so many people are mistaken. They think they can never have enough faith or be good enough to live the Christian life; they think that if they come to Church they will be hypocrites. But the opposite is the truth; you come to Church in order to receive help and faith, and in order to make you the person you ought to be instead of a failure. A wonderful proof of Christianity is that Christ can help when no-one else can help, and that you can find Him nearest just when you need Him most. Coming to Church, or some Church meeting, does not mean that you put yourself above other people, but it does mean that you are wise enough to see that faith in Christ and fellowship in the Church are realities which have helped our fathers and our nation, and can help you, too.

Some people who read what I have written above will not agree. If any such would care to discuss the subject, I should be glad to meet them privately. It is cowardly to shelve the subject, for Christianity demands a verdict. Your answer affects not only you and your whole outlook on life, but it also vitally affects your family, your place in the community and, in fact, helps to influence the continuing life of this nation and world. Is that too big a claim for my little life and yours? Or do you think we are just creatures of circumstances, helpless units unable to do anything in a world ready, maybe, to bring terrifying destruction upon itself?

God has an answer to those two questions. He thought our lives, my little life and yours personally, to be of such value that He gave His Son to save us. And that is the message of Good Friday and Easter Day. So I hope you will pause over Eastertide to think on these things, and that you will find your richest joy as you kneel with me in God's house on this our greatest festival.

Your friend and Vicar,

Gordon Savage

Sermons on Sunday evenings, at 6.30:

April 11. "I'm not fit to go to the Holy Communion — so what ought I to do?"

Easter Day. "Must the Church talk so much about Christ's death and rising again?"

Church Fete. The date proposed in the last issue of the "Marston News" was found to be unsuitable, and it is therefore suggested that Saturday, July 3rd, should be the new date. Please tell the Vicar or Wardens immediately if you know of any reason for not having it on this date. Offers of help, gifts for prizes or stalls, suggestions, etc., will be warmly welcomed by Mr. B. G. Oliver or the Vicar.

ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH, MARSTON.

Vicar : The Rev. Gordon D. Savage, M.A. (Proctor in Convocation), Marston Vicarage, Oxford. Tel. Oxford 47034. (The Vicarage is 11, Elm Road, and the Vicar may usually be seen at the Church or Vicarage on Fridays, 6.30 to 7.30 p.m., Saturdays, 10 to 11 a.m., or after any Service.)
Churchwardens : Professor V. T. Harlow, C.M.G., D.LITT., Fir Tree House, Oxford Road ; Mr. B. G. Oliver, Marston Road Post Office, 463 Marston Road, New Marston.

EASTER, 1954

Holy Week and Easter. On the Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (April 12 to 15) in Holy Week, Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m. and Film Strips for children in the evenings from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Reading Room (each child to bring 2d. an evening). Thursday, evening (April 15), Service of Preparation, 7.45 to 8.30 p.m. (Church).

Good Friday (April 16). 11 to 11.45, Service and Meditation. 12 to 3, The Words from the Cross. 6.30 to 7.30 p.m., "When I Survey The Wondrous Cross." (A sequence of Film Strips, Reading and well-known Hymns, in the Reading Room.) Come as a family to this Good Friday Hour. (Saturday, Decoration of Church, 10 a.m. onwards.)

Easter Day (April 18). 8.15 a.m., THE EASTER COMMUNION (also at 12 and 7.30 p.m.). 11 a.m., Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion. 3 p.m., Family Service (children bring egg or flowers). 6.30, Evening Prayer followed by Holy Communion.

An Invitation. Our little church of St. Nicholas, beautifully decorated with spring flowers, will be filled with worshippers singing the familiar Easter hymns of praise. You are invited to help swell the volume, and to take away the memory of a lovely service. And you are also invited to fulfil the Prayer Book requirement that "every Parishioner shall communicate at the least three times in the year, of which Easter is to be one."

Church Membership. "Are you a member of St. Nicholas' Church?" What does that question mean? What are the qualifications for, the privileges and responsibilities of, Church Membership? Who is responsible for the services and the music at the Parish Church, and who manages the business side? How is the Church financed, and who decides on what may be spent and what fees may be charged? What are the Church's responsibilities in a new housing area? All these questions may rightly be asked of St. Nicholas' Church by everyone living in the Parish. The Vicar, supported by members of the Church Council, hopes to answer these and other questions at **Monday Night at Eight, at 8 p.m., April 12 (Reading Room).** All living in the Parish, whether Churchpeople or not, are welcome, together with others from outside the Parish who attend the Church. The meeting will open with a formal revision of the Electoral Roll in public, from 8 to 8.10 p.m.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Friday, April 28, at 8 p.m. This might be described as the "Annual General Meeting" of our Church, when members receive reports on the activities of the Church, and then afterwards elect the Council, the Sidesmen and other representatives for the ensuing year. This year, the Church is again inviting everyone living in the Parish, whether members of the Church or not, to be present, though voting will be restricted to those qualified to vote. The evening will probably be divided thus :

8. 0 to 8.30 : Reports on 1953, Questions, Discussion.

8.30 to 9. 0 : Tea and Social Intercourse.

9. 0 to 9.30 : Elections for the ensuing year.

Please note that important information relating to the Annual Meeting will be posted on the notice board in the Church porch from April 17th to April 23th. The Vicar will gladly speak with anyone uncertain about the way in which the business has to be done.

Flowers. Would you care to give or arrange the flowers on any particular Sunday? If so, write your name on the paper in the Church porch. Gifts of flowers, and help, will be specially welcome from all on Saturday, April 17th, 10 a.m. onwards.

Do You Type or Write? There is a lot of "desk work" in a growing parish, and it may be that someone with an hour or two would be ready to lend a hand with some writing, or indexing, or typing, or in other ways. Also the Church, especially in its work among young people, can make good use of vast quantities of paper, so any scribbling blocks, new paper or usable scrap, used envelopes (with flaps still gummed) and such like will be appreciated. The Vicar has a typewriter he can lend to helpers and learners.

"Bob A Job." The Scouts and Cubs are at your service for the "Bob a Job" on Easter Monday, April 19, and for the rest of that week. Do please support them; any requests for their help will gladly be passed on by the Vicar or any official of the Church.

Personalia. Our heartfelt sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Oliver on the loss of her father, Mr. David Oliver, a former Mayor of Oxford and a friend of our Church. Our prayers for those in our Parish who are sick, and our good wishes on their recovery to Christine Thane (aged 4), and to Mr. Raymond Haynes. Thank you to the advertiser who gave £5 direct to the Church instead of placing an advert. in the proposed Year Book, and thank you also to the friend who when he found that this was his free year's insurance, gave the £2 10s. to the Church instead of keeping it himself. Very grateful thanks from many mothers to the three ladies of our Church who made 130 little bunches of flowers for Mothering Sunday. Congratulations to Carol Ireson on being elected May Queen, and her attendants, Linda Mutton and Jane Jarvis. Good wishes to Christopher Jennings and Nigel Starmer-Smith on securing entry to Magdalen College School, to Lucy Haynes, on winning the Junior General Knowledge Prize of Headington School, and to Christopher James on securing an award in the Turog National Observation Test. Our prayerful good wishes to Jonathan Starmer-Smith on his Confirmation (March 13th).

Bus Times. The Bus Drivers and Conductors are obliged by the Company to keep to the time given by the Clock at Carfax. Passengers who go by wireless time have sometimes missed their bus, so you have been warned!

Thank You To The Men who give of their time and energy to the Church. Reference to stoking has been made already. Others will this month be making some seats at the east end of the north aisle more convenient for hearing and seeing. The help of others on the churchyard and on simple jobs of carpentry, as well as on preventive measures against wood-worm and dry rot will be welcome. Offers to the Vicar or to the Wardens, please. Two chairs broken at Bible Class need a handyman. The Village needs a man who will run the County Library one evening a week.

Some Advanced Dates (subject to confirmation): May 1st, May-Day at Marston; May 8th, Diocesan Guild of Bell-Ringers at St. Nicholas; May 12th, Scouts A.G.M.; May 18th, M.U. Festival at Bristol; July 3rd, Church Fete; July 4th, Church Army Week-end at Marston.

Bell-Ringing. Any books on bell-ringing and bell-ringers will be welcome, for it is hoped to form a Bell-Ringers' Library at the Church.

Something to Think Over: "I am an old man and have known a great many troubles, but most of them never happened"—Mark Twain.

Peace is not the absence of war; Peace is the presence of God.

A Puzzle : Where is it in the Prayer Book that it is laid down that every Parishioner shall communicate at least three times a year, of which Easter is to be one ?

A Text to Treasure : "Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first-fruits of them that slept" (1 Cor. 15-20).

Happy Birthdays. The Vicar has a note of these Birthdays in April and would be glad of corrections, omissions, etc. : 1, Wendy Lawrence, Christine Lee ; 2, Felicity Greenfield ; 3, Jean Laidlaw ; 11, Adrian McCluskey ; Diane Horsington ; 12, David Matthews, Ann Quiggin ; 14, Margaret James ; 16, Michael Webb, Sandra Mutton, Janet Holmes, David Roberts ; 19, Jane Messenger ; 21, John Fowler ; 24, Barry Sutton ; 26, Pamela Lee ; 27, Michael Clare ; 28, Raymond Ball ; 29, Jean Machon.

FOR YOUR DIARY, APRIL, 1954.

Pin this list up. For further details of Services and Meetings, see "The St. Nicholas Guide to Marston" (free) and the Notice Boards, or ask at Mr. Oliver's (Marston Road Post Office).

"H.C." denotes Holy Communion, "M.P." Morning Prayer, "E.P." Evening Prayer, "R.R." Reading Room. †† indicates that there are further details inside. † indicates item not arranged by Church, which takes no responsibility for errors or omissions.

1. Th. 3, Working Party (Vicarage).
2. F. 7, Concert by Michael Howard (R.R.).
4. **S. V Lent (Passion Sunday).** 8.15, H.C. ; 11, M.P. ; 12, H.C. ; 3, Family Service (Children, Parents and Friends) ; 6.30, E.P.
6. Tu. †Marston Parish Council.
7. W. 7.45, Women's Open Meeting (R.R.).
11. **S. VI Lent (Palm Sunday).** Summer Time commences. 8.15, H.C. : 11, M.P. and Litany ; 6.30, E.P. ; 7.30, H.C.

HOLY WEEK. For full details, see separate list herewith (page 2).

12. M. 8, "Monday Night at Eight" (R.R.), The Vicar answers questions.††
13. Tu. Marston Primary School term ends. †7.30, Women's Institute (R.R.).
16. F. **Good Friday.** 11, Service in Church. 12-3, Service in Church. 6.30 to 7.30, Film Strips and Hymns (R.R.).
17. S. 10 onwards, Decoration of Church.
18. **S. Easter Day.** 8.15, THE EASTER COMMUNION ; 11, M.P. ; 12, H.C. ; 3, Children's Gift Service ; 6.30, E.P., "Bring a Friend" ; 7.30, H.C.
21. W. 7.45, Young Wives' Group (Alan Court), Mrs. Carter, The Mothers' Union.
25. **S. I Easter (Low Sunday).** 8.15, H.C. (M.U. Corporate) ; 11, M.P. (Scouts and Cubs) ; 6.30, E.P.
26. M. 8, Marston Primary School begins.
27. Tu. 2.30, M.U. (Alan Court), Miss Naylor, "Telling Bible Stories."
30. W. 8, Annual Parochial Church Meeting (R.R.).††

MAY.

1. S. May Day at Marston.
2. **S. II Easter.** 8.15, H.C. ; 11, M.P. ; 12, H.C. ; 3, Family Service ; 6.30, E.P. ("Youth on Service.").