

MARSTON NEWS

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



My dear Friends,

Greetings to you and yours wherever you are this Easter! May this glad season fill your hearts with renewed hope and comfort, and may you go forward with Christ's love made more real to you!

When you hear the CHURCH BELLS ringing out their joyful greeting on Easter Day, remember that they are repeating the sincere and WARM WELCOME which this letter brings to you to join in the worship in God's House that day. Our little Church of St. Nicholas, beautifully decorated with spring flowers, will be thronged with worshippers singing the familiar Easter Hymns, and we wish you God's richest blessings as you share with us our Easter joy!

You are invited to help swell the volume of praise on this great day, and to take away the memory of a happy service in which as a whole family you have taken part.

Those of you who are confirmed are also reminded of the Prayer Book requirement that "Every Parishioner shall communicate at the least three times in the year, of which Easter is to be one".

Your friend and Vicar,

GORDON D. SAVAGE.



GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER

Good Friday, 12 to 3 p.m.: Service and Meditation, with short addresses by Mr. Patrick Hamilton. (Come for the whole or any part of the time.)

11 a.m.: Mattins. 7.45 to 8.30 p.m.: Readings and Hymns in Church.

All who profess and call themselves Christians try to observe this day by a visit to God's house and by some act of self-denial.

Easter Even (March 31st): The decoration of the Church will begin at 10 a.m. Gifts of flowers and any help will be very welcome. Especially primroses (?) for the Churchyard Text.

Easter Day, April 1st, 8.15 a.m.: THE EASTER COMMUNION (also at 12 and 7.30 p.m.).

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| *11.0 a.m. Morning Prayer | 12. 0 | Holy Communion |
| *3. 0 p.m. Family Service | 4. 0 | The Easter Baptisms |
| *6.30 p.m. Festival of Lessons and Hymns | 7.30 | Holy Communion |

*These are simple Prayer Book Services for *the whole family*, each member of which is welcome. At the Family Service at three o'clock each child is invited to bring an egg or small gift (to be taken to children in Oxford Hospitals on Easter Monday). Visitors to the Parish are warmly welcomed.

"The Ancient Custom of Easter Offerings": The Churchwardens wish to intimate that the Collections in Church on Easter Day (together with any sums sent to them by those unable to be present) will be given as a personal gift to the Vicar. This does not apply to the Weekly Offering Envelopes.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Easter Tuesday, April 3rd, at 7.45 p.m. at the Reading Room. All friends of the Church are invited to be present to hear the Reports on 1955, to take part in the questions and discussion. The evening will probably be divided thus:

7.45 to 8.30: Reports on 1955, Questions, Discussion.

8.30 to 9. 0: Tea and Social Intercourse.

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

Electoral Roll. When the Electoral Roll was revised on March 19th, it was found that 105 names had been added since the revision this time last year. In four years the number of electors has increased by ten times, and it is specially gratifying that in many cases it is both husband and wife who enrol together. That is a good omen for the children of these homes and for the family life of this Parish. There is no doubt too that there are many others also, whose names are not yet on the Roll, who wish to be identified with the work and witness of the Church.

"Marston Market." Mrs. Kensington, of Church Cottage, has suggested that a "Marston Market" be held outside or inside the Reading Room on the Saturday mornings of the summer, from May 5th onwards. It will be opened at 10.30 a.m. promptly and last half an hour, and will be for the exchange and purchase of flowers, plants, seedlings, vegetables, household items, books, and so on. All proceeds will be for the Restoration Fund of the Church. Further details will be given in the May issue of the *Marston News*. In the meantime offers of help, and suggestions, will be welcomed by Mrs. Carter, the Secretary of the Restoration Fund, or by the Vicar or Churchwardens.

Personalia. Our prayerful good wishes to JULIAN STARMER-SMITH, who was confirmed on March 17th. Our thanks and good wishes to MR. and MRS. W. R. GREENFIELD, on their departure for Toot Baldon: we shall greatly miss them, though we hope still to see them from time to time. Our sympathy to MRS. NEWELL of "The Three Horseshoes" on the damage caused by the recent fire. Congratulations to the CUBS on their first Bulb Show. A welcome to GEOFFREY PARKER, GRAHAM HOLT and ROBERT SUTTON, who were admitted as Choristers of our Church on March 18th. Our grateful thanks to the MOTHERS' UNION members who polished the Church pews and furniture on March 20th. Our sympathy to MICHAEL BURTON, MICHAEL BURKE, JANET EDENS, MRS. KING, MR. OGLANBY, MRS. E. L. HAYNES, MR. H. E. WARD and others who have been in hospital in March.

Flowers. One of the many attractions of our lovely Church is the splendid and artistic display of flowers, not only on the Holy Table but also elsewhere in the Church. For this we are chiefly indebted to the Curator of the Church Flowers, Mrs. Jennings, and those who assist her. We wish it to be known that *all* friends of the Church are welcome to give, or arrange, flowers to mark some anniversary. If you would care to do this, please write your name on the paper in the Church porch or mention it to Mrs. Jennings (8 Oxford Road) or to the Vicar.

Cyclists and Motorists. So many people bring their cycles to the various services at Church that the Churchyard Committee has asked that all cycles should be placed in the forecourt of the Church School; thus the Churchyard will be tidier and the path will not be obstructed. Motorists are not obstructing traffic in the road if they park all one side, nearest to the gate, but they are particularly requested not to park where the bus backs into Church Lane.

Churchyard. A great effort is being made this spring and summer to get the grass in the churchyard under control. During recent years teams of men have been given long hours to this work of cutting the grass under difficult conditions. By means of a public meeting and a Faculty as a result, the Parochial Church Council hopes to get the churchyard sufficiently clear for it to be mowed with a motorised cutter. This will cost about £40 to £50, including the initial labour of preparing the ground. Contributions to this cost are invited. In the meantime it is essential that the ground is thoroughly examined if a good start is to be made this year with the cutting from the time that the machine can first be used. Accordingly all the men who helped in churchyard teams in previous years, together with others who would care to join them, are invited to leave their gardens and allotments for just half an hour, from 6 to 6.30 on Good Friday evening, so that this work may be explained and initiated.

Public Notice about the Churchyard. The following notice has appeared in the *Oxford Times* and been posted in four public places in the Parish: "Notice is hereby given by the Vicar and Churchwardens that it is proposed to apply for a Faculty authorising the removal of mounds and kerbstones from untended graves unopened in this century. In the meantime it is proposed to proceed with the levelling of some of these mounds.

"Accordingly a public meeting will be held on Friday next, March 23rd, at St. Nicholas County School, Marston, at 7 p.m., for the purpose of explaining the proposed scheme. Anyone in a position to identify one or more of these mounds is requested to communicate with the Vicar prior to or at the meeting. Address: The Reverend Gordon D. Savage, M.A., Marston Vicarage, Oxford."

It is not too late to identify any mounds or to make representations. This may be done by letter, or at the conclusion of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Tuesday, April 2nd. A map of the churchyard, with every grave marked, is being displayed in the Church, by the font, throughout the month of April, and nearest relatives are asked to record on the schedule the reference number of the grave in which they are interested.

What does the Church stand for? It stands for many things more closely related to our freedom and our everyday life than most people imagine. But the following appeared in a paper the other day, and it might well stand on a notice outside our Church, for many have surely found it true of St. Nicholas Church, Marston:

"This Church stands not so much to represent a denomination as to witness the spiritual facts of life.

"It aims at lifting the thoughts of men and women away from the harassing things of the world to the high and holy things of the spirit.

"It seeks to offer to the weary a home, and to the lonely a place where they will meet with those who seek their good.

"To all who seek a haven of rest and worship and who have not found it, this Church offers a welcome. They will be received without ostentation, but with sincerity and kindness."

PLEASE DO NOT FORGET THE OLD-TIME VARIETY EVENING

at

ST. NICHOLAS COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

on Friday, April 6th, at 7.45 p.m.

Thank you to those who have contributed to the cost of the *Marston News* or collected to it: Mrs. Ainslie, 3d.; Mrs. Barnsley, 7/4, 8/4; Mrs. Buckett, 2/6; Church Box, 2/9; Mrs. Crich, 2/-; Mrs. Brough, 3/-; Bone, 3/-; Miss Griffin, 3/-; Mrs. Garner, 6d.; Miss W. Griffin, 3d.; Helmes, 4/11; Miss A. Haynes, 3/-; Mrs. Hayle, £1; Miss D. Hill, 5/-; Dr. Hewitt, 5/-; Mrs. Jones, 3/-; Mr. Jennings, 10/-; Mrs. Larn, 3d.; Mrs. Jenkins, 3/-; Mr. Lewis, 3d.; Mrs. Maund, 16/6; Mr. Molyneaux, 3/-; Mrs. Reynolds, 3/-; Mrs. Roberts, 1/-; Mrs. Sheppard, 14/3, 1/6; Mrs. Swain, 4/6; Mrs. Smith, 8/3, 6/9; Mrs. Spencer, 3/-; Mrs. Simpson, 6d.; Mrs. Turner, 3d.; Miss Sinclair, 2/6; Mr. Sperrin, 3d.; Mrs. Sumner, 3/-; Mrs. Toms, 16/-, 13/9; Mrs. Vernede, 16/10, 6/7; Mrs. Walker, 2/6; Mr. Wren, 3d.; Mrs. West, 2/-.

If you do not receive your copy of the *Marston News*, please report this to Miss D. E. Hill, who arranges the distribution. Her bungalow is called "Harlan" and is in Lamburn Close, 38 Oxford Road (near "The Red Lion"). Or you can leave a note for her at Marston Road Post Office.

Baby-Minding. There is a proposal that children between the ages of two and a half and five might be cared for by someone duly qualified to do so between the hours of 9.0 and 12.0 at the Reading Room on two mornings of the week. If you are interested in this, please tell Mrs. Sage, 17 Rippington Drive, and let her know which mornings you would prefer. The cost would be about 2/- a morning.

A Smile. "How do you grow old so gracefully?" an admirer once asked Alexandre Dumas. "Madam," he replied, "I give all my time to it."

Something to Ponder. "One man and God can be a majority."

A Text to Treasure. "For as in Adam all die: even so in Christ shall all be made alive."



FOR YOUR DIARY, APRIL, 1956

Every Sunday: 8.15, Holy Communion. 11, Morning Prayer. 6.30, Evening Prayer. Additional notes given below.

- 1 S. EASTER DAY (see front page).
- 3 Tu. 2.45, Pram Service. 7.45, Annual Parochial Church Meeting (R.R.).
- 4 W. 7.45, Young Wives' Group (R.R.): Mr. L. C. Jennings on "Discipline".
- 6 F. 7.45, Old-Time Concert (St. Nicholas Primary School).
- 8 S. *Easter I* (Low Sunday). 7.30 p.m., H.C.
- 10 Tu. (2.45, W.I.)
- 12 Th. (2.40, County Library.)
- 15 S. *Easter II*. Preacher: The Rev. D. E. W. Whiteley, M.A. (Jesus College).
- 16 M. (St. Nicholas School recommences.)
- 18 W. 7.45, Young Wives' Group (Husbands' and Wives' Social).
- 21 S. (Clocks one hour forward tonight.)
- 22 S. *Easter III*. 6.30, "Bring a Friend" Sunday evening service. 3, Sunday School recommences.
- 24 Tu. 2.45, Mothers' Union (R.R.). Rev. H. R. Moxley: "Relief Work in Europe".
- 25 W. *St. Mark, Evan. and Mar.* 9.30, Holy Communion (M.U.).
- 26 Th. (2.40, County Library.)
- 29 S. *Easter IV*. Industrial Sunday.

MAY

- 1 Tu. *SS. Philip & James'*, 2.45, Prams.
- 2 W. 3, Rural Deanery Conference. 7.45, Young Wives' Group.
- 3 Th. 7.45, Parochial Church Council (R.R.).