

AUGUST, 1954

# MARSTON NEWS

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

## A MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR.

My dear Friends,

"Our people here in Marston are really wonderful," is what someone overheard me saying to the Duchess of Marlborough on the afternoon she came to open our Church Fête. And I mean that with all my heart, not only or even chiefly because you managed to raise £224 that afternoon by a simple straight-forward Garden Fête and Sale, but because there is abundant evidence that you enjoy sharing in the fellowship and service of your ancient parish church not only on this but on many other occasions, too.

I calculated that over 75 per cent of the homes in the parish were actively associated with the preparations for the Fête in some way or another, and of course many more on the day itself. This is a great joy to a Vicar's heart, for his great desire is to let them see that in the joy of serving God and our fellow-men, it is the contribution of every person, be it small or great, be that person young or old, which is so precious. When I didn't know you so well, I wondered whether there were certain things we would be able to do. I've now discovered (and what a joy in the discovery!) that there is nothing you will not do, if asked, provided you share the vision of what needs to be done. This readiness to work and to give comes, I feel sure, from the fact that the Church's existence in this parish is not just for self-enjoyment but for costly service and ministry to the whole community, knitting the whole of this parish together in an outlook on life which is unselfish. At least that is our ideal, however difficult to achieve.

There was another "parish" which once showed a magnificent concern for others, even though they were "down to the last penny themselves," and their experience may help us too. Their first "Vicar" records, "I can guarantee that they were willing to give to the limit of their means, yes and beyond their means, without the slightest urging from me or anyone else . . . Nor was their gift, as I must confess I had expected, a mere cash payment. Instead they made a complete dedication of themselves first to the Lord, and then to us as God's appointed ministers" (St. Paul, writing of the Macedonian Church, II Cor. 8, Phillips version). When the day of reckoning comes, may it be found that many in Marston have made a complete dedication of themselves to the Lord, for it's then that life has a new zest, giving becomes a thrill, and the future has a purpose and a calm surrounding it.

Which reminds me that when I was planning the Bell-Ringers Service in July, a well-educated friend from Oxford quite seriously asked me, "What is the original idea behind Church Bells?" I was able to tell him that they were there not for the amusement or skill of bell-ringers, but primarily for the purpose of calling people to Church!! Shortly afterwards he saw you putting this into practice, and it is heartening to see the number who are rewarding the regular, expert and laborious service of our ringers Sunday by Sunday.

Your friend and Vicar,

*Gordon Savage*

## 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, Elsie 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.

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**CHOIR OUTING.** The Choir Outing will be on Wednesday, September 8th, and the destination is Wicksteed Park, Kettering. It will be possible to take some others, both children and adults, in addition to the choir, and of course first preference will be given to parents and friends of the choir and then to members of the Church. The cost, including return fare by coach, a hot meal at mid-day and some other incidentals is 14/6. Names should be given as early as possible to Mr. W. E. Brain, 1 Ouseley Close, or to Mr. B. G. Oliver.

**DEANERY MISSIONARY FESTIVAL.** St. Nicholas Church, Marston, has had the privilege of being chosen as the place of meeting for the Deanery Missionary Festival. Please note the date : THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th, from 3 to 6 p.m. The programme is as follows :

3 to 3.45, Missionary Service in Church (at which the Bishop in North Africa will be the preacher) ;

3.45 to 6 p.m., Teas (at 1/6 a head) at the Reading Room : also seven or eight stalls (Cakes, Jumble, Home-made Goods, Books, etc.) at the old Church School ; also films and talks.

Old Marston people will be glad to support this Festival, both for the benefit which they will derive from it and also because of the good causes and societies the proceeds will support. Marston's own share in the proceedings as host parish is (a) to provide the accommodation and stalls, (b) to arrange the Service in Church, (c) to supply the teas. The proceeds from the sale of teas will be given to Missionary work. Offers of cakes, sandwiches or help may be made to Mrs. Roberts, 4 Mortimer Drive, or to the Vicarage.

**ANGLICAN CONGRESS.** Most parishioners will have heard that the Vicar is in the U.S.A. in August. The Church of England is now the Mother Church of some 300 Dioceses throughout the world, including those of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the U.S.A., and it is almost 50 years since the Anglican Church had a conference of representatives of all these

Dioceses, so the U.S.A. Dioceses decided to invite a Congress to meet in August, 1954, at Minniapolis, in the Mid-Western State of Minnesota, with delegates as the guests of the American Church. The Vicar, who had previously been invited to attend, received an Air Letter on July 12th saying that sufficient dollars had been allocated to cover, in addition to hospitality, the expenses of the long journey. So there was no excuse for his not attending the Congress, and accordingly, he sailed on the Queen Elizabeth on July 28th. The only other members of Oxford Diocese who are attending the Congress are Bishop and Mrs. Allen, of Ripon Hall. The Vicar greatly values this privilege made possible through the generosity of the American Church and he looks forward, in due course, to talking about the findings of the Congress which is bound to be of great significance to the Church of England as well as to the whole Anglican Communion.

**HOLIDAYS.** Hearty wishes to all who are on holiday or who have plans for holidays at this season! Don't forget to make a happy holiday even happier by worshipping at the local Church.

**CONFIRMATION.** Plans are in hand for a Confirmation at Old Marston next spring. It seems likely that there will be several adults in addition to boys and girls. Now is the time to start thinking, praying and reading about this subject. The Vicar would be glad to meet intending candidates for a preliminary talk in September and October.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE CLASSES.** The Sunday School and Bible Classes resume on Sunday, September 12th, at 3 p.m. Meet at Church and you will be told of the new places of meeting.

**SCRAPBOOK.** The Cromwell Club (the Youth Club of the Church) is entering the "Oxford Times" Competition for a Village Scrapbook. Accordingly, any photos of the old village and of changes during the last 50 years, any accounts of how houses have changed hands, and any others of historical interest will be welcomed by the club leader, Mr. Ray Journeaux, who may be addressed c/o the Vicarage or c/o Mr. B. G. Oliver.