

The Vicarage, Marston, Oxford.
5 December, 1952.

Dear Parishioner of Marston,

This is our St. Nicholas-tide week-end, and this letter comes as a personal invitation to you to join with us in our Church's "Birthday" Services next Sunday, Dec. 7th. In the morning at 11 o'clock the special preacher will be:-

The Right Reverend C.R. HONE, D.D.

Dr. Hone is a well-known preacher; he was formerly Bishop of Wakefield, and we in Marston are fortunate to have a visit from him. Will you be there to welcome him on Sunday morning? I do hope so!

About the evening: although all children are welcome at all Services, on Sunday evening there will be a special welcome, for we are having a FAMILY SERVICE from 6.30 to 7.30, and we cordially invite Fathers and Mothers - and others - to come with their children - or without them - to this Service at which we shall by special request sing CHRISTMAS CAROLS. I hope I shall see you there! The 'bus from Beecheys Avenue at 6.20 gets you to Church just in time, and it leaves again just after the Service has ended.

There will also be on Sunday the Holy Communion at 8.15 a.m. (M.U. Corporate Service) and at 12 noon.

Friends give presents to one another on Birthdays, and so whether you can be with us on Sunday or not, may I invite you to put your BIRTHDAY GIFT to your Parish Church for its Birthday in the enclosed envelope? Some people who cannot always attend Church and thus miss the Collections like to send their annual gift in this way, to show their appreciation of the Church and its work.

But our Church exists to give to you much more than ever you could ever give to it - all the joy and blessings which our Lord has in store for you. So do look on me and on the officials of our Church as ever at your service to advise and help, to warn and guide, to cheer and comfort, - and to lead you into "the riches of the glory of His inheritance".

God bless you, dear people, in your homes and in your daily work,

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

Gordon D. Savage

SOME NOTES OF INTEREST TO PARISHIONERS.

"MONDAY NIGHT AT EIGHT". At our next meeting, Monday, Dec. 15, at the Reading Room, in the old village, Mrs. Heaton (Oxford Marriage Guidance Council) will speak on "MARRIAGE AND ITS PROBLEMS". Questions and Discussion are invited. All who live in the parish are invited to this important subject which affects us all in one way or another! An interesting programme has been arranged for the rest of this winter's "Monday Nights at Eight".

"YOUNG WIVES' GROUP". Mrs. Moore (Oxford) will give a talk on the topical and important subject of THE COLOUR BAR at Alan Court, Mill Lane, at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday next, December 10. Husbands as well as wives of all ages are invited on this occasion.

THE "MARSTON FAMILY". There is a growing "family spirit" between the peoples of our parish. Our Church wants to foster this family spirit, and it seeks to break down every barrier between people. Will you come and join us in our Church fellowship, for we want the friendship and help which you can give to this family, and you need the warmth of fellowship and friendship which we want to share with you.

§ CAROL SERVICES

Sun. Dec. 7th - 6.30 to 7.30 (see letter above)

Sun. Dec. 21st - "CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT" in Church at 6.30 p.m.
Illuminated Christmas Tree.

Tue. Dec. 23rd - United Carol Service in Church at 2.45 p.m. for Mothers' Union and Young Wives. All Mothers and Wives and Children invited. No children admitted without a Mother or relative. Illuminated Christmas Tree.

§ CAROL SINGING IN THE STREETS

Parties will go out Carol Singing and playing Carols on Hand-bells as follows:

Fri. Dec. 19th - St. Nicholas Caravans and Mill Lane area, 6 p.m.
Mortimer Drive and Carters Caravans area, 7 p.m.

Sat. Dec. 20th - British Legion Hall

Mon. Dec. 22nd - Beechoys Avenue, 6 p.m.
Rippington Drive and Oxford Road area, 6.30 p.m.

Tue. Dec. 23rd - Through the Old Village, 6 p.m. onwards.

Please note:

- (a) You are welcome to come and help us sing. A Practice in Church on Friday next, Dec. 12 at 6.30 p.m.
- (b) We will come and sing your favourite Carol outside your house if you send me a request in advance.
- (c) We shall collect for the Bellringing, Choir and Church Funds, and if you have for often to send in your Birthday Envelope you can give it to the collector then.

§§ CHRISTMAS DAY

8.15 a.m. - Holy Communion

11 a.m. - 12 - A FAMILY HOUR OF WORSHIP, with Christmas Hymns. Children are invited to bring a small present each to put on the Tree - the presents to be taken that afternoon to children in Hospitals.

CHILDREN AND CHRISTMAS. Please don't let any child of our Parish be robbed of the thrill of finding "CHRIST" as the Source of our "CHRISTMAS" joys! Come and worship with them, and it will be the best Christmas you have ever known! Ours is a "Family Church" and we would rather risk a few cries and fidgets from the younger ones than not have them at all!

WARMING THE CHURCH! Your Church Officers take very seriously the need to warm the Church adequately in the winter. This is a costly business (and must go on whether you are there or not!), but steps have been taken recently to improve the heating, and it is confidently hoped that in future the Church will always be really warm. Come and warm it by your presence!

SUNDAY SERVICES. Each Sunday Morning Prayer at 11 and Evening Prayer at 6.30. Sunday School and Bible Classes at 3 p.m. Holy Communion each Sunday at 8.15; also at 12 o'clock on 1st Sunday and at 7.30 p.m. on 3rd Sunday of each month.

CONFIRMATION. Preparation will commence in January. All interested are invited to speak to the Vicar.

MARSTON CHURCH CELEBRITIES. A full statement of how these are administered will be put on the Notice Board in the Church Porch on January 1st.

SCOUTS AND CUBS. Scouts are now in full swing; Cubs start after Christmas.

THE CORONATION. Watch out for news of our Church's important part in the Coronation arrangements.

NEWS OF OUR ACTIVITIES. Would you care to receive news like this regularly? If so please inform the Vicar.