



December, 1954

# MARSTON NEWS

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

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF MARSTON  
FROM THE VICAR AND COUNCIL OF ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH!

## CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

### I. PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS.

**Carol Singing and Hand-Bell Ringing.** For several weeks the young people have been practising the singing of Carols and the playing of Hand-bells. Hand-bell playing is an old custom of Marston, revived in recent years by the Church. For seven nights the Carols and Hand-bells will be heard in the various parts of the parish, and these are listed under the dates, Dec. 16th, 17th, 18th, 20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd in the Diary (overleaf).

Please note :

- (a) **You** are welcome to come and help us sing. A practice in Church on Friday, Dec. 10th, from 6.30 to 7.15 p.m.
- (b) When you hear the hand-bells and carols, do please turn on your lights, listen to us and give the young people a welcome, especially if the night is cold or wet!
- (c) We will gladly come and sing **your** favourite Carol outside **your** house if you will kindly send the Vicar a request in advance.
- (d) We shall be collecting for the Funds which provide treats and help for the Choir, the Bell Ringers and other young people's organisations; and if you have forgotten to send in your Heating Envelope you can give it to the collector then.

**Carols by Candlelight.** This proved to be very popular last year. The Lessons are read by various members of the Church, and the Carols are sung some by the Choir alone, others by the Congregation and Choir together. The Church is illuminated only by candles and the lights on the Christmas Tree. Note the date: The Sunday before Christmas, Dec. 19th, 6.30 to 7.30 p.m. Also on Dec. 26th.

**Decoration of the Church.** This will be done on the Saturday before Christmas, Dec. 18th, from 10 a.m. onwards. Offers of help by men and women, gifts of evergreen for the decoration, and a Christmas Tree, or decorations for it, will be welcome!

**Women and Children.** The Carol Service for the Mothers' Union and Young Wives' Group will be held in Church on Tuesday, Dec. 21st, at 2.30 p.m. All Women and their children invited. No children admitted without a Mother or relative. Illuminated Christmas Tree.

## II. CHRISTMAS SERVICES.

**The Christmas Communion.** The people of God make a special effort to gather as His Family at His Holy Table on Christmas Day, and our main Celebration of the Holy Communion will be at 8.15 a.m.

**The Family Service on Christmas Morning.** There will be a Family Hour of Worship, with Christmas Hymns, from 11 to just before 12, on Christmas Morning. Children are invited to place a small present each on the Christmas Tree during the Service, and these presents will be taken on the Monday morning to children in the Oxford Hospitals. There will be a service of Holy Communion at 12 o'clock.

**Sunday, December 26th.** In the evening at 6.30 p.m. there will be a second "Carols by Candlelight" Service, in addition to the Holy Communion at 8.15 a.m. and Morning Prayer at 11 o'clock.

**County Library.** Instead of the County Library being operated from the Reading Room, there is now a Mobile Library which calls on Thursdays at the White Hart Yard from 2.30 to 3 p.m., and at Mortimer Drive from 6.30 to 7 p.m. Anyone of 15 years or over may make use of this service. **The Church Library** is now on the shelves in the Reading Room formerly occupied by the County Library, and these books are available for consultation or borrowing whenever there is a Church function at the Reading Room; this service is free and the Vicar hopes that use may be made of it by any who live in the parish whether they are members of the Church or not.

**Cricket Club.** The Old Marston Cricket Club is in great need of support by players and by well-wishers. If you play cricket, or would anyway care to support the club, please communicate with the Secretary, Mr. H. Messenger, 1 Mill Lane.

**Marston Church Charities.** A statement as to how these are administered will be on the Notice Board in the Church Porch from Dec. 6th to 13th and from Jan. 3rd to 10th. The Trustees would be glad to receive as early as possible names of parishioners thought to be eligible. The Charities referred to in this paragraph are administered by the Vicar and Wardens of the Church; they are entirely separate from the set of Charities (including the "Marston Common" fund) administered under the supervision of the Parish Council.

**Confirmation.** Preparation of young people and of older people in readiness for a Confirmation at St. Nicholas, Marston, sometime during the coming spring has now commenced. Now is the time to enquire about Confirmation. An enquiry, and in fact attending classes, does not bind you or the Vicar in the matter. By reading the books prescribed and by studying the lessons you can judge the implications of Confirmation, and all people as yet unconfirmed are invited to consider carefully the spiritual challenge which this step involves.

**Thank you** to the bands of devoted workers who have helped during the last month: to the ladies who so diligently cleaned and polished in the Church after the Gas Heating had been installed; to those who provided food and practical help for the Sunday School Party and for the Teenager Squash; and to those who continue to undertake so faithfully the many routine tasks which help forward the work of the Church.

**Weekly Offering Envelopes.** A number of friends of the Church who wish their support of the funds to be regular instead of willy-nilly have offered to take a set of weekly envelopes, whereby they contribute their

offering, whether they are present or not. Envelopes are supplied for every week, with the date on them; when the contributor is present he puts an envelope in the collection, and if he cannot be present it is put in next time he comes or is collected from him at the end of the month. You can contribute any sum, whether it be 3d. or 3/-, and the Vicar or Treasurer will gladly supply free of charge a leaflet giving full details of the Scheme.

**Scripture Union.** It is regularity of certain practices which is so helpful to the one who practises as well as to others intended to benefit. As with regular giving, so with regular reading of the Bible. The reading of a few verses or even one verse each day helps to brighten life's way. The local secretary of the Scripture Union is David Woodward, 5 Ouseley Close, and the subscription to the S.U. is 2d. per annum—in return for which you receive a card with the list of portions for each day. There is also an attractive range of magazines and booklets for young and old. See the display in Church on December 12th.

**Children's Society.** Congratulations to the Sunday School scholars and their friends on collecting a purse of money which was presented by Rose Heatley to the Princess Royal in the Royal Albert Hall on November 3rd.

**Dr. Barnado's Homes.** Mr. and Mrs. Bangs report the collection of £11 6s. 9d. through the house-to-house collection and wish to thank those who helped to collect and those who gave.

**Helpers Wanted.** Several teachers are required for the Sunday School on December 12th and 19th and on January 2nd and 9th. Also someone to play the organ.

**Heating the Church.** The new Gas Radiant Heating is now installed and everyone seems highly satisfied with the results. Everyone in the parish will have had a letter about the financing of this project, and Marston people must be proud of the way in which parishioners have "spread the load" and have shared the cost. A number found it more convenient to give a sum like 1/- a week for five or ten weeks than to give the sum outright. If by any chance you have been overlooked, please do not think it is not because your contribution is not welcome! Just speak to the Secretary of the Heating Fund, Mr. W. R. Greenfield, 23 Rippington Drive. At the first opening of envelopes, on November 17th, a sum of £53 4s. 5d. was counted, approximately a quarter of the sum required.

**Michael Howard's December Concert.** This will be on Saturday, December 4th, in the Reading Room at 7.15 and you will have read a notice about this. A few tickets remain unsold at the time of going to press.

**Village Hall.** A Christmas Fair for Village Hall Building Funds will be held on December 11th at the Reading Room. The Committee now has £2,100 in hand, and hopes to be able to announce plans for a Village Hall in the near future.

**A Text to Treasure:** "God so loved . . . that He gave His only-begotten Son . . ." (St. John 3, 16).

**Something to Think About: "A Smile."** It costs nothing but creates much. It enriches those who receive it without impoverishing those who give. It happens in a flash and the memory of it lasts for ever. None are so rich that they can get along without it; none so poor but are the richer for its benefits. It is rest to the weary, daylight to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad and Nature's antidote for trouble. It cannot be bought, begged, borrowed or stolen, for it is something that is no earthly use until it is given away. (Dale Carnegie).

## FOR YOUR DIARY, DECEMBER, 1954.

Pin this list up. For further details of Services and Meetings, see 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 a bus connects with the beginning and/or end of this item. †† indicates that there are further details inside. † indicates item not arranged by Church, which takes no responsibility for errors or omissions.

4. S. \*7.15, Michael Howard's "December Concert" (R.R.).
5. S. **Advent II. St. Nicholastide.** 8.15, H.C. (followed by breakfast); 11.0, M.P.; 12.0, H.C.; \*6.30, E.P. "Youth on Service."
11. S. Christmas Fair for Village Hall.
12. S. **Advent III.** 8.15, H.C.; 11, M.P. and Litany; \*6.30, E.P.: \*7.30, H.C.
15. W. \*7.45, Young Wives' Group (R.R.), "Icing the Cake." 7.45, P.C.C. (R.R.).
16. Th. CAROLS: St. Nicholas Park, Church Lane, Mill Lane area.
17. F. Marston Primary School Term ends. CAROLS: Boul't's Lane, The Close, Oxford Road (South of Recreation Ground).
18. S. 10 onwards, Decoration of the Church. CAROLS: British Legion and other invitations.
19. S. **Advent IV.** 8.15, H.C.; 11, M.P.; \*6.30, E.P. CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT.†† Bring your Family and come with your Neighbours!
20. M. CAROLS: Beechey's Avenue, Rippington Drive, Cromwell Close, Fairfax Avenue.
21. Tu. **St. Thomas.** \*2.30, United Carol Service for M.U., Young Wives and all Women, and also for their children (in Church).†† CAROLS: Mortimer Drive, Lewell Avenue, Nicholas Avenue, Ashlong Road.
22. W. CAROLS: Cherwell Caravan Park, Cavendish Drive, Haynes Road, Windsor Crescent, Cotswold Crescent, Raymond Road.
23. Th. CAROLS: Through the old part of the Village.
25. S. **CHRISTMAS DAY.** 8.15, THE CHRISTMAS COMMUNION. 11—12, A FAMILY HOUR OF WORSHIP: "The Message of Bethlehem": Children invited to place gifts on Christmas Tree.†† 12, H.C.