

# MARSTON NEWS

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

---

My dear Friends,

There are three things to which you will wish to have your attention drawn this month:

**I. Lent.** Too often the common idea of Lent is that of a time of petty and tiresome restrictions. Instead it ought to be a joyful time of preparation for Easter, joyful because it is a time when we turn back to God and rediscover His love. Lent commences on Ash Wednesday, February 15. There is a Service of Holy Communion at 10.30 a.m., and also a Short Service of Prayer and Dedication in Church from 7.45 to 8.30 p.m.

I hope that as many Churchpeople as possible will come to one or both of these Services, and also to the special Services and Sermons on the First Sunday in Lent, February 19. At 11 a.m., our friend, the Rev. H. C. Babb, Chaplain of Culham College, will again preach to us. At 6.30 I shall be introducing a course of Sermons on some of the lesser-known sects, Theosophy, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, Spiritualism, etc., and as February 19 will be our "Bring a Friend" Sunday we shall also meet at the Reading Room afterwards.

**II. Confirmation.** The Confirmation of candidates from this parish will be by the Bishop of Oxford at St. Clement's Church on Monday evening, March 26. This is an important step for the adults and young people who are to be confirmed, and I hope that you will remember them in your prayers each day. It seems specially suitable to have a Confirmation just before Easter. Are there any other adults or children who wish to be included in this Confirmation?

**III. A Parish Concert.** A first-class Concert Party has been booked for Friday evening, April 6, for a rollicking time for the whole family. Please note the date and keep it free. Thanks to the generosity of two friends of the Church, the fee for the Concert Party and the hire of the new school have been covered, and it is hoped that this will result in a very large sum being handed to the **Restoration Fund** when the concert is over.

Your friend and Vicar,

GORDON D. SAVAGE.

---

**Verger.** Mr. George Gunn, of Mill Lane, retired from the post of Verger in December because of indifferent health. Mr. Gunn was appointed Verger in 1951 after many years as Churchwarden. The Church owes much to the loyalty and devotion of Mr. and Mrs. Gunn over many long years, and we wish them both God's peace and good health in the eventide of their lives, and we also thank them for all that they have done for us.

It is with pleasure that we announce the appointment of Mr. William Brain as Verger and Sexton in succession to Mr. Gunn. Mr. and Mrs. Brain will be moving into the bungalow being built opposite the Church, and from that time onwards Mr. Brain will be undertaking all the Verger's duties. We look forward to their arrival in the old village.

**Organist.** Mr. R. W. Eaton resigned his post as Organist and Choirmaster in November in order to have experience on a larger and more modern organ, at Old Headington. Their gain is our loss, for Mr. Eaton has helped the Church in many ways besides the skill with which he played the organ and led our singing. We are glad that Mrs. Eaton, John and Elizabeth will still be with us on Sundays.

We consider ourselves very fortunate to have been able to fill the Organist's post by someone in our own Parish. Mrs. E. Garner, of Rippington Drive, has already ably demonstrated her powers, and the Church Council was unanimous in appointing her organist, thankful that we have in Mrs. Garner someone so able with the organ as well as sympathetic with the way in which our services are conducted.

#### DO YOU KNOW?

- (i) That if the street light near you is not working it will be put in order immediately if you telephone Oxford 47271?
- (ii) That if you have difficulty in getting a tap rewasher the City Water Engineer will probably do this free of charge if you ask him (Oxford 47254)?
- (iii) That everyone who pays rates is advised to examine his new Assessment in the New Valuation Lists (Bullingdon Offices, 76 Banbury Road, Oxford)?

#### SOME ADVANCE DATES TO NOTE

- Sunday, March 11: Mothering Sunday.
- Monday, March 26: Confirmation.
- Sunday, April 1: Easter Day.
- Tuesday, April 3: Annual Parochial Church Meeting.
- Friday, April 6: Concert at St. Nicholas' County Primary School.

The Rev. G. W. H. Lampe, who had his old caravan in Marston for some months, will broadcast at 9.45 a.m. on Sunday, February 19. He and Mrs. Lampe often speak of their friends in Marston, and he will be speaking at the Mothering Sunday Service in our Church on March 11.

#### Holy Baptism

- Jan. 1.—Elaine Valerie Emile Hutcheon.
- Jan. 29.—Robert William Allen.

**Marston News.** Thank you to the following who have made or collected contributions to the cost of production, and thank you to those who have contributed through them: Mrs. Brain (Beecheys Avenue, 1/-); Mrs. Vernede (Mill Lane, 24/2); Mrs. Kensington (5/-); Mrs. Barnsley (St. Nicholas Park Wardsfield, 12/-); Mrs. C. W. Carter (5/-); Mrs. Sumner (3/-).

Some who receive the "Marston News" say that they would prefer to give a small sum to the Church *each week* all through the year rather than give a sum if they are in when the paper is delivered. For those who wish this, little weekly envelopes are provided, and these can be collected from you on request, or there are various places where they may be left. Please ask for details.

**Choir.** Some vacancies exist in the Choir for boys with good voices. Voices may be tested any Friday evening at 6.30 p.m. in Church, immediately before or after the choir practice.

---

### THE RESTORATION OF THE CHURCH

The plans for this progress well, and the petition for the Faculty has now been published. The Managing Directors of Messrs. Axtell and Perry, who are to undertake the work, have conferred with representatives of the Church on the spot. A Restoration Fund Appeal for £2,500 will be launched when the scaffolding is erected, in March or April. It is rather exciting to discover the ingenious ways proposed for raising the necessary money, and the organisations of the Church are now setting themselves targets and making their own plans for raising the sum. One thing becomes clear, and it is this: that by undertaking the work now, and spreading it over three years, we are able to tackle a big task which in ten years' time would have been almost impossibly greater. It is heartening to find the way in which people are warming to this task and in which people only remotely connected with the Church are also wanting to help. More details in the March and April issues of the "Marston News". One way in which everyone can begin to help is to use one of the **Lenten Boxes**, and to put in it during Lent (February 15 to March 31) the equivalent of what you usually spend on cigarettes or sweets. Boxes may be obtained from the Church, from the Vicarage, or from Marston Road Post Office (Mr. Oliver's). Once again Mr. Oliver is giving the contents of his weighing machine during Lent to the Church, and this year both this and the Lenten Boxes will help to swell the Restoration Fund.

---

**A Verse to Remember:** "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man will hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (Revelation iii, 20).

**A Thought:** "Liberty means responsibility. That is why most men dread it" (Bernard Shaw).

**A Laugh.** The schoolmaster had given a lesson on the Prodigal Son. "Now, children," he said, "who was sorry that the Prodigal had returned?" From the side of the room a voice cried, "The fatted calf, sir."

FOR YOUR DIARY, FEBRUARY, 1956

5. S. *Sexagesima*. 8.15, H.C. 11, M.P. 12, H.C. 6.30, E.P.  
7 Tu. 2.45, Pram Service.
- 12 S. *Quinquagesima*. 8.15, H.C. 11, M.P. 6.30, E.P. Preacher: Canon  
Jardine (Candidates' Secretary, C.M.S.). 7.30, H.C.
- 15 *Ash Wednesday*. 10.30, H.C. (M.U.). 7.45, Service in Church.
- 19 S. *1st Sunday in Lent*. 8.15, H.C. 11, M.P. Preacher: Rev. H. C.  
Babb (Culham). 6.30, E.P. ("Bring a Friend" Service).
- 20 to 21. St. Nicholas' County School holiday.
- 22, 24 and 25. Ember Days.
- 24 F. *St. Matthias*, Apostle and Martyr.
- 26 S. *II Lent*. 8.15, H.C. 11, M.P. 6.30, E.P.
- 28 Tu. 2.45, Mothers' Union (Reading Room).
- 29 W. 7.45, Young Wives' Group (Reading Room).