

MARSTON NEWS

The News-Letter of St. Nicholas Church, Marston, Oxford
delivered to every home in the Parish

A MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR

My dear Friends,

The best Christian commentary on the passing years is in three Hebrew words, which sum up all our experiences and hopes:

Ebenezer — Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.

Jehovah-Jireh — The Lord will provide.

Alleluia — Praise God!

Ebenezer for the past, Jehovah-Jireh for the future, and therefore Alleluia for the present.

And so, as I wish you a happy New Year, I would give you this text: "Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid; neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest" (Joshua 1:9).

With my prayers and good wishes for 1957,

Your friend and Vicar,

GORDON D. SAVAGE.

SOME DATES FOR JANUARY, 1957

16. Wednesday, 7.45. Young Wives' Group (Mrs. Harlow on "Malaya").
20. Sunday, 6.30 p.m. "Bring a Friend" Service (Bell-Ringers' Sunday).
22. Tuesday, 2.45. Mothers' Union (Mrs. Greenfield on "Elizabeth Fry").
25. Friday. The Conversion of St. Paul.
27. Sunday, 8.15. Holy Communion (Mothers' Union).

Parties as follows: Jan. 4th, M.U. and Y.W.G.; 8th, Cromwell Club; 11th, Choir; 12th, children of M.U. and Y.W.G.; 12th, Pathfinders; Feb. 2nd, Sunday School.

Broadcast. Those who heard "The Christian Singers" on their two visits to St. Nicholas Church will be interested to know that they are broadcasting at 8.30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 9th, on "The Voice of Tangier", a radio station which is heard in the Middle East, the Northern part of Africa, as well as Europe generally, on the 31 metre band, at 9.485 kilocycles. The address being given in the broadcast is by the Vicar of Marston on "Repent and Believe". The broadcasts on the following Wednesdays at the same time are from St. Ebbe's Church, Oxford, and All Souls, Langham Place, London, respectively.

Marston News. In order to save the distributors and subscribers unnecessary trouble, there is enclosed with this January issue of the *Marston News* a reply slip, so that friends may indicate how they wish to pay for the paper. We feel sure that this response slip will be welcomed, and you are asked to return it to the Vicar or to Mr. Oliver, or one of the distributors will call for it later in the month.

Gift Day. The total amount counted after the DAY OF PRAISE, PRAYER AND GIFTS at St. Nicholastide was £112 13s. 2d., made up thus:

	£	s.	d.
Church Collections	35	0	0
Church Box		5	3
Collecting Boxes	56	9	5
Christmas Cards	11	10	6
* Cheques	9	8	0
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	£112	13	2
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Thank you to all who in so many ways made this week-end a success and enabled us to bank more than the £104 which was needed in order to pay all the Restoration Accounts before the end of December.

As a result of this wonderful effort, it will be possible to enter 1957 with about £34 in hand in the Restoration Account, for a number of additional gifts have been received since the Gift Day.

Wanted! A table-tennis table in good condition is urgently needed by the Cromwell Club. Anyone who is able to supply one, or who knows where one can be obtained, is asked to communicate with the Club Leader, Mr. A. Lofthouse, or with Miss Liles or the Vicar. There is also need for other suitable equipment for the Club and for the other youth organisations.

Confirmation Classes. Classes for Confirmation are being started in January, and everyone interested is asked to mention the matter to the Vicar as soon as possible. Boys and girls are normally expected to attend the Pathfinder Classes before Confirmation preparation. There are special arrangements for adults, and a warm invitation is extended to all adults of any age to make enquiries. At each Confirmation from this Church in recent years there have been several adults, and all young parents are earnestly advised to think about this if not already confirmed.

Some of the Vicar's outside engagements in January: Jan. 8, Islington Conference; Jan. 10, Pastorate Council; Jan. 15 to 17, Lectionary Committee (Lambeth); Jan. 16, Tyndale Hall Council; Jan. 23, Council for Foreign Relations; Jan. 30, St. Peter's Hall; Jan. 31, Culham College Council; and in addition, meetings at the Diocesan Office on Jan. 7 and 22.

Carols in the Streets. The Singers and Hand-bell Ringers thank all who supported their efforts in December as once again every street and lane in the parish was visited. The result of the collection was as follows: Monday, Dec. 17, £3 11s. 0d.; Tuesday, Dec. 18, £5 18s. 8d.; Wednesday, Dec. 19, £3 12s. 1d.; Thursday, Dec. 20, £6 2s. 7d.; Friday, Dec. 21, £3 12s. 4d.; Saturday, Dec. 22, £7 7s. 6d. Total, £30 4s. 2d.

Some further sums have also been received, and a number of Gift Envelopes returned for the Restoration Fund.

Thank you to the Choir and Bell-ringers who so faithfully led the parties a night, and also to the Cromwell Club, the Young Wives' Group, the Mothers' Union and the Scouts and Cubs who also helped by being responsible for one night's singing each.

A Marston Play? All who are interested in the possibility of producing a play, and who are ready to help in any way, whether by acting or by work for the effort, are invited to meet at the Reading Room on Thursday evening, January 17th, at 7.30 p.m., when Mrs. Veronica Baird, who has both produced plays and acted in them, will be present. This meeting is only exploratory.

Pathfinders. The following members of the Pathfinders Classes of St. Nicholas Church were presented with their badges during December: Brenda Saunders, Sandra Frost, Joan Simmonds, Hazel Ward and Martin Hathaway. The Badges are awarded after ten weeks' consecutive attendance, and then after fifty weeks' attendance a specially-bound Bible is presented.

Sunday School. Miss Margaret Wellings, who is a member of our Church as well as a student at St. Michael's House, presented three prizes before she left for London in December, and they were awarded as follows:

For reciting the names of the books of the Bible: Jacqueline Walker and Mary Holmes.

For neatest book of memory verses: Jacqueline Walker.

Our Sympathy to the relatives and friends of those laid to rest in recent weeks: Lily Sabberton, Olive Edwards, Winifred King, Herbert Spenton, Anne Mullins, Olive Thain.

Choirboys. We have been glad to admit as Choirboys recently: Michael Clarke, Roger Lofthouse, Ronald Maund and Barry Sutton, and also two choirmen: Mr. F. D. Maund and Mr. John Swain. We are very grateful for all the help given by the choir, and the names of the other members of the choir are Barry Ray, Colin Carter, Geoffrey Parker, John Swain, Robert Sutton, Noel Deam, Leonard Maund, Keith Messenger, Mr. W. T. Cook, Mr. S. Wilkins, Mr. W. E. Brain and Mr. F. C. Bangs.

Bell-Ringing. The following record of a peal at St. Nicholas Church appeared in the *Ringling World* in December:

MARSTON, OXFORDSHIRE
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF RINGERS
on Saturday, December 1st, 1956, in 2 hours 10 minutes
at the Church of St. Nicholas
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES
5,040 Changes
42 Extents (different callings) Tenor: 6 cwt.
Brian Machon (Treble), Roy H. Jones (2), Alec Gammon (3),
Malcolm Journeaux (4), David C. Woodward (Tenor)
Conducted by Alec Gammon

The specially interesting facts behind this formal record of a peal are: (1) that it was the first peal ever to have been rung by a local band, (2) that it was the quickest peal ever rung on these bells, (3) that it was Roy H. Jones' first peal of Grandsire, and Brian Machon's first peal, (4) that all ringers, except Mr. A. Gammon, learned to ring on these bells in recent years. This peal was rung as a compliment to Roy Jones for his twenty-first birthday, to commemorate the Patronal Festival, and to mark the arrival of Miss M. S. Liles as the Parish Worker of St. Nicholas Church.

The Annual BELL-RINGERS' SERVICE will be at 6.30 on **Sunday evening, January 20**. This is an opportunity for us to pay our tribute to the Bell-ringers, to learn more about their work and to pray for God's blessing on them.

It may be of interest to record that the Ringers, who are themselves all worshippers in our Church, reckon to ring the bells for the Morning and Evening Services on Sundays, from 7.30 to 9 o'clock on Friday nights; and to attempt peals not more frequently than once a month. If because of sickness or for some other cause the bells are ever likely to cause annoyance, the Vicar is glad to be informed.

County Library. The Mobile Library will call at Mortimer Drive from 6.15 to 7 p.m. on Thursdays, January 10th and 24th, and fortnightly thereafter. This reduction in service is due to petrol rationing.

Child-Minding Group. A Child-Minding Group has been registered by the County authorities, and it is held at the Reading Room from 9 a.m. to 12 on Mondays and Fridays, under the supervision of Mrs. Barnes. The cost is 2/- a morning, and mothers wishing to avail themselves of this facility should call when the group meets or communicate with Mrs. Bridger-Sage, 17 Ripington Drive.

Something to Think About: "The most important thing in prayer is that we present ourselves as we are before God as He is."

A Smile: Question to small boy: "Why was it that Jesus was born in a stable?" Answer: "Please, sir, because His dad didn't put his name down for a new house."

A New Year Motto: "The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me . . . Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:6, 8).