

Vicar-designate: The Rev. Gordon D. Savage, M.A., 10 Marston Ferry Road, Oxford
(Tel: 55532)
(address after July 10th: The Vicarage, Marston, Oxford.
(Tel: 47034)

Churchwardens: A.W. PRIESTLEY, M.A. Little Acreage, Elsfield Rd., Marston
(Tel: 3737)
B.G. OLIVER, 463, Marston Rd., New Marston. (Tel: 382411)

SUNDAY SERVICES IN THE PARISH CHURCH, MARSTON

MORNING PRAYER: 11 a.m. EVENING PRAYER: 6.30 p.m.
HOLY COMMUNION at 8 a.m; also at 12.15 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month.

A HEARTY WELCOME AWAITS YOU AT YOUR PARISH CHURCH!

On the last Sunday of each month, Evening Prayer will be introduced and specially explained for the benefit of those who do not know the Church of England service or who, for other reasons, have not been attending Church Services.

A LETTER FROM THE VICAR-DESIGNATE.

9th June, 1952.

Dear people of Marston,

You may have heard that I am to become your new Vicar on Thursday of this week, 12th June. The Service of Institution by the Bishop of Oxford will be in our ancient Parish Church of St. Nicholas, Marston, at 8 p.m.; please accept this as an invitation to be present. I do hope that you can come and that I shall have the opportunity of shaking hands with you afterwards.

Through the kind help of our Church Officers, this letter will be delivered to every house in the Parish, and I hope that it may be the beginning of a new link between all parishioners and their Parish Church. To the non-Churchgoer I would say this word of reminder and invitation: "You Need Your Church; Your Church Needs You."

OUR CHURCH. We have in Marston our lovely old church of St. Nicholas. This is your church, so do get to know it, and please use it for moments of prayer and quiet on week-days, as well as for the services on Sundays - and may you come to love it as a spiritual home, where you meet with our Lord Jesus Christ, and where you receive inspiration, strength and comfort for the journey of life.

"PEOPLE MATTER". But a Church does not consist only of bricks and mortar: the living Church of Jesus Christ is made up of all the people who serve Him. Every individual matters to Him: He can use your gifts and bless your lives; you need His help and all the fellowship that His Church can give. It is wonderful to see how in a Church God brings together in His service people with very different backgrounds and experiences, people of different ages and different interests. There is a great joy in this fellowship of service, and I invite you to join us in it. Remember that although the Vicar has his own special responsibilities, the Church relies on the vital help given by each of its members, those who take their share in keeping the Church running, those who sing and those who play, those who clean and beautify, those who ring the bells and those who do the innumerable other jobs that need doing, quite apart from those who so admirably manage the business side, our Churchwardens and Parochial Church Councillors.

THE VICAR. Like a doctor, the Vicar wishes to know when people want to see him. But just as a doctor cannot tell who is ill unless he is informed, so the clergyman does need to be told when there are cases of sickness or other trouble, though he may sometimes hear of them indirectly. Owing to my finishing off some administrative work at a Church organization in London, I shall not be so free to visit during my early months at Marston as I shall be later; but I hope to visit every house and flat and caravan in the parish by this time next year. In the meantime I am always ready to do all I can to fit in special visits on request at any time. For that reason I stand at the door

of the Church at the end of each service, with a notebook in hand. When I call at your house it won't be just to discuss the weather (!) - but to be of spiritual help and to give practical advice on "the things that matter": at the same time I believe that there is no part of our life that Christ cannot touch and bless if we let Him, and I hope that our Church may be found at the heart of our village's work and leisure. I may always be found at the Vicarage (even before I move in) each Saturday between 10 and 11 a.m.

THE SERVICES. We have straightforward Prayer Book Services in our Church, and I hope that the Services are such that all can take part. I hope that through the Sermons we shall come to understand and value our Bibles and our Prayer Books. If you do not belong to a Bible Reading union, and would like to do so, please let me know.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE. Look out for notices at a later date about the re-starting of our Sunday School at the end of September! We also hope to arrange a Young People's Fellowship for this next winter, with a full and varied programme of interest to all young people.

PRAYER. May I invite you to pray for me as I take up this work as your Vicar? I want to help every one of you, and if I am to do this properly, I need your prayers and support. May God richly bless you and your homes.

Your sincere friend,

Gordon Savage

SERMONS IN JUNE

June 15th 11 a.m. (Reading the XXXIX Articles - with comments)
6.30 p.m. (Reading the XXXIX Articles - with comments)

June 22nd 11 a.m. Why the Church?
6.30 p.m. How can I understand the Bible?

June 29th 11 a.m. Our Village Church - past and present
6.30 p.m. How our Prayer Book Service is planned