

A LETTER FROM YOUR PARISH CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,
O L D M A R S T O N .

The Vicarage, Marston, Oxford.
14 March, 1953.

My dear Friends,

I think you will wish to know of some of the important events in the near future, and this letter is to convey a warm personal invitation to join us in them.

TOMORROW, SUNDAY, MARCH 15 - Mothering Sunday. There will be a special Family Service from 3 to 4 p.m., in Church, at which there will be a little surprise for all Mothers. ALL Mothers, whether Churchpeople or not, and whatever the age of the children (even if they are still to arrive or have already grown up & gone away!) are invited to be present, together with husbands, friends, children and babes. This will be in addition to the usual services at 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. (Holy Communion at 8.15 a.m. and 7.30 p.m.), at which I shall refer to the significance of MOTHERING SUNDAY.

TUESDAY NEXT, MARCH 17, at 8 P.M. - C O N F I R M A T I O N by the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Dorchester. We expect twelve of our children and five adults to be confirmed. There are several reasons why you and your friends will wish to be present on Tuesday: (i) first and foremost because these young people need all the backing and encouragement which you can give by your presence and prayer for them; (ii) because this is the largest number for many years, and we want you to share in this big 'step forward' for our Church; (iii) because Confirmations in our Church are only few and far between (the records show only 3 since 1915); (iv) because this will be our first opportunity to welcome our new Bishop of Dorchester, the Rt. Rev. Kenneth Riches. Please be in your seats by 10 mins. to 8 p.m. if possible.

FIRST COMMUNION, SUNDAY WEEK, MARCH 22 at 8.15 a.m. Our Confirmation Candidates will receive their first Communion at 8.15 a.m. on Passion Sunday, March 22. I hope that many of our Congregation will be there, praying for them, kneeling by their side and encouraging them by their presence. Afterwards there will be a Light Breakfast served in the Reading Room from 9 to 10 a.m. A moderate charge (not exceeding 2/-) will be made for the Breakfast; those intending to be present should let me have their names at least some time the day before. In preparation for the First Communion I shall read the First Exhortation (just after the Prayer for the Church Militant, in the Service of H.C.) on Sunday evening, March 15, and I shall also invite all able to do so to attend a short service of preparation in Church from 8 to 8.20 p.m. on Saturday, March 21, the night before the Communion.

There are other important notes given below. Please read them carefully.

I think this Lent has seen some real progress in our Church life. Do look to me and my wife to give you all the help and counsel we can, especially in your endeavours to believe in and follow the Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you, dear people, in all you do and plan, in your home and in your daily work!

Your friend and Vicar,

Gordon Savage

REMEMBER: A HEARTY WELCOME AND GOOD FRIENDSHIP ALWAYS

AWAIT YOU AND YOURS AT ST. NICHOLAS, MARSTON !

Mon. March 16: 8 p.m. Monday Night at 8: Dr. Cardwell (R.R.)
 Tue. March 17: 8 p.m. Confirmation (Church)
 Thur. March 19: 8 p.m. Bible Study: I Peter (Vicarage)
 Sat. March 21: 8 p.m. Preparation for Communion (Church)
 Sun. March 22: 8.15 "First Communion" followed by Breakfast
 11 a.m. Scouts and Cubs Parade
 Wed. March 25: 3 p.m. Deanery M.U. (St. Andrew's, Headington)
 Thur. March 26: 8 p.m. Bible Study: I Peter (Vicarage)
 Fri. March 27: Marston Primary School - end of term
 Sun. March 29: 11 a.m. Rev. K.C. Cooper (Cunmor) at Marston
Mon. March 30 to Thur. April 2: Films or Film Strips for
children, 6 to 7 p.m., in Reading Room, each evening.
 Mon. March 30: 8 p.m. Monday Night at 8: (see next page) R.R.
 Tue. March 31: 2.30 M.U. Enrollment (Church). Rev. R.C.S. Bailey
Wed. April 1 to EASTER DAY, April 5: for Services on
Easter Day, and on the days before, see separate notice.
 Mon. April 6 to Sat. April 11: "Bob-a-Job" Week (Scouts & Cubs)
 Wed. April 8: 7.30 Young Wives (Alan Court) - Mrs. Savage
 Sun. April 12: 6.30 FAMILY SERVICE (followed by tea in R.R.)
 Lenten Boxes to be returned by today
 Mon. April 13: 8 p.m. Monday Night at 8 (R.R.)
 Wed. April 15: 8 p.m. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (R.R.)
 Sun. April 19: Summer Time begins
 Tue. April 21: Marston Primary School - term starts
 Wed. April 22: 7.30 Young Wives (Alan Court) - Mrs. Heatley
 Sun. April 26: 11 a.m. Scouts' and Cubs' Parade (preacher: Mr.
 W.F.A. Stone, Rover Scout Leader, Wycliffe)
 Mon. April 27: 8 p.m. Monday Night at 8: Mr. R. Verneade (R.R.)
 Tue. April 28: 2.30 Mothers' Union (Alan Court) - "Youth & Church"

SOME FUTURE DATES - MAY TO JULY.

May 5 to 8: Convocation of Canterbury (London)
 May 14: ASCENSION DAY
 May 24: WHITSUN DAY
 May 27: Choir Outing to Cheddar, Uphill & Weston-s-Mare
 May 31: TRINITY SUNDAY (Special Services for the CORONATION)
 June 2: God Bless Our Gracious Queen!
 June 10: Diocesan Conference (Oxford)
 June 15 to 19: Church Assembly (London)
 June 22: Marston Primary School - Outing to London
 June 25 to 28: Trinity Retreat and Ordination (Oxford)
 July 4: MARSTON CHURCH FETE.
 July 24: Marston Primary School - term ends

MOTHERS' UNION: May 26, June 11 (London) and June 30
 Corporate Communion at 8.15 on: May 3, June 7 and July 5
 YOUNG WIVES : May 6 and 20, June 17, July 1 and 15.

NOTE: IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THIS CHURCH NEWS-LETTER, with Diary of Dates, should be A PRINTED MONTHLY; what do you think? Would you support it? The Vicar would be glad to receive brief notes from any organization in the parish, for inclusion (as far as possible) in the monthly "Newsletter"; also dates for inclusion in the Diary.

SUNDAY SERVICES IN THE PARISH CHURCH, MARSTON.

MORNING PRAYER: 11 a.m. CHILDREN: 3 p.m. EVENING PRAYER: 6.30

HOLY COMMUNION: 8.15 a.m. every Sunday; also at 12.15 on the First Sunday of month; also at 7.30 p.m. on the Third Sunday of month.

THE LITANY is read at Morning Prayer on the third Sunday of month.

A "FAMILIAR SERVICE" for THE FAMILY on the Second Sunday evening of each month, at 6.30 p.m. (usually followed by tea, as announced, at Reading Room or Vicarage). Well-known Hymns and tunes. A Prayer

"MONDAY NIGHT AT EIGHT". At our next Meeting, on Monday next, March 16 at 8 p.m., in the Reading Room, Dr. H.M.E. Cardwell, of Court Place Farm, will show films and speak on "The Experiences of a Scientist in the War". We are always specially glad to welcome and hear one of our own "Marston family". Then on Monday, March 30 the Electoral Roll of the Church will for the first time ever be revized in public, from 8 to 8.10 p.m., and this will be followed by a talk by the Vicar on "Your part in the administration and finances of the Church of England". Other meetings in April on April 13 and April 27. ALL Old Marston people are warmly invited to all meetings. No formalities !

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING, Wed. April 15 at 8 p.m. This might be described as the "Annual General Meeting" of our Church, when members of the "Company" ("shareholders" whose names are on the Electoral Roll. . See note below) meet to receive reports on the activities and affairs of the Church from the "Directors" (or Committee, which we call "the Parochial Church Council") and then afterwards to elect the Council, the Sidesmen and other representatives for the ensuing year. This year all parishioners, whether on the Electoral Roll or not, are invited to be present; though voting will be restricted to those qualified to vote . The proceedings will be divided thus:

8 p.m. to 8.45: Reports on 1952; questions; Discussion.

8.45 to 9.10: Tea and social intercourse.

9.10 to 9.30: Elections for the ensuing year.

CHURCH FÊTE. An old-time Village Fête, organized by the Church, has been arranged for Saturday, July 4. Keep the date free. Offers of help, gifts for prizes or stalls, suggestions &c will be warmly welcomed by the Vicar or by Mr. B.G. Oliver, Chairman of the Fête Committee.

MOTHERS' UNION. A warm invitation to the following:

(a) Wed. March 25 (Feast of the Annunciation) at 3 p.m. Deanery Festival. Preacher: Bishop of Dorchester. At Old Headington.

(b) Tue. March 31 at 2.30. Enrollment Service at St. Nicholas, Old Marston. Preacher: the Rev. R.C.S. Bailey.

(c) Tue. April 28 at 2.30. "Youth and the Church" - an address by the Vicar. At Alan Court.

YOUNG WIVES' GROUP.

(a) Wed. April 8 at 7.30 (Alan Court) Mrs Savage (Susanna Wesley)

(b) Wed. April 22 at 7.30 (Alan Court) Mrs Heatley (What are Nerves?)

LENTEN BOXES. Warm thanks to those making use of these. They should be returned by Sunday, April 12, please.

GUIDES. Please pray that the right leaders may soon be led to offer themselves for uniformed youth work among girls in Marston.

WHITSUN FARTHING. For the first time the children of our parish are making their own special effort by means of "Whitsun Farthings". Will you please help them to collect 2000 farthings during the 50 days between Easter and Whitsun ?

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP. An experiment in a Youth Fellowship for 'teenagers' is now being made. Future developments will be announced at the Annual P.C. Meeting on April 15. The weekly meetings have included a visit to the Missionary Exhibition in the Town Hall.

DEANERY MAGAZINE. We are disappointed that the news of Marston was omitted from the last issue. It is hoped that it may be possible to supply some extra copies of the Magazine from April 1st. onwards (price, 4/- p.a.). Orders should be placed with Mr. L.C. Jennings, 8 Oxford Rd.

THE CORONATION.

(1) COLOURED FILM STRIP. The Church's plans for the Coronation will be announced at the end of April. In the meantime we shall prepare ourselves for this great opportunity of dedication with our gracious Sovereign to the service of God and of our people. As part of the preparation the Vicar is ready throughout April and May to come along to any house or caravan in the parish and show a new film-strip on the Coronation. The 40 coloured pictures describe the Coronation stage by stage and will help towards a greater understanding on the day itself. So just choose an afternoon or evening (the darker the better; but this is not necessary), ask the Vicar about the date, and then invite your neighbours and their children to come in and share it. Any room will do. It will be a case of "first come, first served".

(2) CORONATION GIFTS. There will be a "two-way traffic" in gifts and reminders of this great event. Those who wish to mark the year and their appreciation of the Church by some gift to the Church or its work are invited to speak to the Vicar. Two Elizabethan Service Books, an Alms Dish, a Lectern Bible, a Hymn Board and some hassocks are among the gifts promised. Please ask the Vicar if you would care to look over the list of 'wants'. Among the suggestions are: hassocks and hangings for the Church, a flag for the Scouts, some Bibles for the Sunday School, table-tennis for the Youth Fellowship.

ELECTORAL ROLL. IS YOUR NAME ON THE CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL? If not, why not? It costs you nothing, and there are no 'hidden snags' about it; but if you are a Church Elector you have certain votes and 'a say' in the affairs of the Church. Qualifications: You must be 18 years or over, and must be a member of the Church of England and not belong to a religious body not in communion with the C. of E. You must either live in the parish or else have habitually attended public worship at St. Nicholas, Marston, for the last six months. I shall be speaking to many of you about this between now and March 30, when we revize the Roll, and we hope to see a large increase in our electoral membership. G.D.S.

PARISH ACTIVITIES. We hope to supply a complete guide to Church activities with the next letter. Do you know that there is now a Church Meeting every night of the week except Saturday - and on some nights more than one? There is something which can help you and your family, and which needs your help! "Monday Night at Eight", Bible Studies, Sunday School, Scouts, Cubs, Bible Classes, Youth Fellowship, Scripture Union, Mothers' Union, Young Wives. Details will gladly be supplied by the Vicar on request. Other groups will be formed. Any suggestions? We do want you, whoever you are, to share in our "family fellowship" at Marston: some of the latest "recruits" are so delighted to have "discovered" the Church and wish they had done so long before!

"PUZZLE CORNER". The Vicar offers a prize to everyone who sends correct answers to these questions: (1) Which ruler is described in the Bible as a fox? (2) Which is the "Solemn Day, for which a particular Service is appointed" mentioned in the Prayer Book, and what is the date of it in 1953?

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS! The Vicar has a note of these Birthdays in April and would be glad of corrections, omissions, etc:
1st: Wendy Lawrence (7); 3rd: Jean Laidlaw (12); 5th: Gordon Blackwell (10); 11th: A-drian McC (8), Diane Horsington (9); 12th: David Matthews (7); 14th: Margaret James (8); 16th: Michael Webb (3), Janet Holmes (7), David Roberts (6); 21st: John Fowler (7); 27th: Michael Clare; 29th: Jean Machon (14).