

# MARSTON NEWS

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

## A LETTER FROM THE VICAR.

My dear Friends,

It's in a parish like this that one watches the weather rather carefully, for to many families living in houses or caravans close to impassable mud and roads without light, venturing out to Church on a dark Sunday evening can become a major hazard! But a number of families are not deterred—and their muddy boots are a tribute to their determination! To them and to us all, March is a hopeful month, when we may have a reasonable chance of seeing the first signs of spring. Certainly the evenings will get longer bit by bit; perhaps the roads will be less dirty—and this March we have the new No. 8 'Bus Service. This 'Bus will have a profound effect on our parish life. Some fear that it will hasten the break-up of our life as a village; but I personally welcome what will undoubtedly prove to be a boon to all of us, and I also feel confident that the secure place which the Church holds in the hearts and affection of Marston people will serve to increase the importance of St. Nicholas as the centre of our life as a community in which "people matter" and individuals are important. Anyway, the coming of the No. 8 'Bus is important, and the full time-table as it affects us is given on the next page. Be sure to note these times of 'buses leaving Beechys Avenue for St. Nicholas Church:

just after 6.15 for **Sunday evening Service**

just after 25 mins. to 8 p.m. for **mid-week** evening meetings

about 20 mins. to 3 p.m. for **Sunday School**

and there are convenient 'buses back afterwards. Because of the new 'bus times the Sunday School and Bible Classes will in future meet from 3 to 4 p.m.

Here are some special dates to note immediately:

**Sunday, March 21st**, Reunion of Confirmees, 6.30 p.m.

**Sunday, March 28th**, Mothering Sunday: Service in Church for Fathers Mothers and children from 3 to 4 p.m. (see note inside).

Lent commences on Ash Wednesday, March 3rd, and there will be a short service in Church for Husbands and Wives at 7.45 ("The Meaning of Lent for the Family"). Elsewhere are suggestions for your observance of Lent; but here is a suggestion for everyone — during Lent I shall speak on the six Sunday evenings on Problems and Questions sent in to me about the Bible and what it says, Christianity, the problem of pain and disease, and the new age in which we live. So whatever your problem, write it on a piece of paper, with or without your name, and hand it to me, or leave it at the Vicarage, or the Village Stores or at Marston Road Post Office. I hope you will weigh carefully the answers given on the six Sunday evenings and then say whether you agree or not!

Your friend and Vicar,

*Gordon Savage*

## HOW THE NEW NO. 8 'BUS SERVES OLD MARSTON.

(\*Bus No. 8—28th Feb. 1954 onwards)  
Dark figures denote P.M. times.

**TO OXFORD.** 'Buses leave Marston (St. Nicholas Church) for St. Aldate's and New Hinksey as follows (reaching St. Aldate's 17 minutes later):

Weekdays :								
6.42	7.14	7.38	8.02	8.26	8.50	9.14	9.38	10.02
10.26	10.50	11.14	11.38	12.02	12.26	12.50	1.14	1.38
2.02	2.26	2.50	3.14	3.38	4.02	4.26	4.50	5.14
5.38	6.02	6.26	6.50	7.18	7.45	8.12	8.39	9.06
9.33	10.00	10.29						
Sundays :								
10.27	11.48	1.09	1.54	2.21	2.48	3.15	3.42	4.09
4.36	5.03	5.30	5.57	6.24	6.51	7.18	7.45	8.12
8.39	9.06	9.33	10.00	10.29				

'Bus No. 72 passes St. Nicholas Church for Gloucester Green :  
on Wednesdays and Fridays at 9.42 a.m., 1.52 p.m., 4.52 p.m.  
on Saturdays at 9.42 a.m., 1.52 p.m., 4.52 p.m., 6.52 p.m.  
on Sundays at 2.52 p.m. and 5.52 p.m.

**FROM OXFORD.** 'Buses leave the G.P.O., St. Aldate's, for Old Marston as follows (passing Beecheys Ave. about 11 mins. later, and due at St. Nicholas Church 16 mins. after the times below):

Weekdays :								
6.49 (Sats. only)			7.19	7.42	8.07	8.31	8.55	9.19
9.43	10.07	10.31	10.55	11.19	11.43	12.07	12.31	12.55
1.19	1.43	2.07	2.31	2.55	3.19	3.43	4.07	4.31
4.55	5.19	5.43	6.07	6.31	6.55	*7.27 (passes Beecheys		
7.38)	7.54	8.21	8.48	9.15	9.42	10.09	10.36	
Sundays :								
10.09	11.30	12.51	2.03	*2.30 (passes Beecheys 2.41)				2.57
3.24	3.51	4.18	4.45	5.12	5.39	*6.06 (passes Beecheys		
6.17	6.33	7.00	7.27	and then as on weekdays.				

'Bus No. 72 leaves Gloucester Green for Old Marston and Beckley :  
on Wednesdays and Fridays at 8.50 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m.  
on Saturdays at 8.50 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 10 p.m.  
on Sundays at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.  
\* These times are of special interest to Churchpeople.

**FOR SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE** catch the 6.06 from St. Aldate's as it passes Beecheys Ave. at 6.17, reaching St. Nicholas at 6.21.

**FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE CLASSES** catch the 2.30 from St. Aldate's, passing Beecheys at 2.41, reaching Church at 2.45 (The 'bus back is at 4.09).

**FOR WEEKDAY EVENING MEETINGS** catch the 7.27 from St. Aldate's as it passes Beecheys at 7.38, reaching Church at 7.43.

By courtesy of The City of Oxford Motor Services Ltd., the Vicar is permitted to extract and circulate the above times from the new timetable.

**SCOUTS.** Who will help? Unless someone suitable offers himself as Scout Master in succession to Michael Howard the 43rd Oxford Scouts (St. Nicholas) may not be able to meet after March 31st.

**LENT.** This provides a wonderful opportunity for special preparation of oneself for Easter. Some suggestions: **Read**—Borrow a book from the Church Library after the Ash Wednesday service or on March 7th. Read St. Luke's Gospel, or the Epistle to the Ephesians at one sitting. **Study** "The Catholic Faith"—a book which explains a lot of what we do and believe as Christians. **Think**—Send your problem to the Vicar, to be answered on a Sunday evening in Lent, and then think over whether you agree with the answers. **Give**—a Lenten Box for acts of self-denial will help the furtherance of Christian influence at home and abroad. **Pray**—do you feel the call to specific prayer for our parish and for the world? If so, do please tell the Vicar. **Be honest**—if you have a personal problem of some kind or another, why not ring the Vicarage and make an appointment? Or, of course, just call at the Vicarage at any time, or stay behind after a Service. **Receive a Blessing**—week by week at the Communion Rail and by worship with the Family. **Help some soul**—by your smile and your word of cheer. God bless your Lent!

**ELECTORAL ROLL.** It is very important that every baptised member of the Church of England of 18 years and over should have his and her name on the Electoral Roll of the Church. It costs nothing, and there are no "snags"—but it does give you voting rights at the Annual Meeting, and every vote helps the influence of our Church in the Deanery as well of our Diocese in the government of the Church as a whole. Do speak to the Vicar about this if your name is not yet on the Roll of St. Nicholas.

**CHURCH FETE.** It is proposed that the Church Fête shall be on Saturday, July 10th. Please tell the Vicar or Wardens immediately if you know of any reason for not having it on that date.

**MOTHERING SUNDAY.** This year, Mothering Sunday falls on March 28th, and there will be a special Family Service from 3 to 4 p.m. 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 and gone away!) are warmly invited to be present, together with husbands, friends, children and babes! The Vicar will refer to the significance of Mothering Sunday at the Services at 11 a.m. and 6.30, and he hopes that all **Fathers** will make a point of being present at one of the Services during the day.

**COUNTY LIBRARY.** The Marston Branch of the County Library has been reopened and may be used at the Reading Room on Thursdays from 3.30 to 4.30 p.m.

**GREATER LONDON CAMPAIGN.** Beginning on March 1st, Dr. Billy Graham will be filling the Harringay Arena for Evangelistic Services each weekday evening. Many of you will have read leaflets about this, and I shall be glad to arrange for any parties from Marston. Some of us may not feel drawn to mass meetings of this sort, but we hear that Dr. Billy Graham, a young man in his 30's, has had a remarkable and profound influence throughout the United States of America and that the leaders of our sister church there, the Protestant Episcopal Church, have been glad to support his work actively. So let us pray for him and for those who attend the meetings.

**PATHFINDERS.** Congratulations to PETER FOWLER, CHRISTINE HAMMOND and ANNE HARPER on winning the Pathfinder badges (Bible Classes).

The Vicar may usually be seen at the Church or Vicarage from 6.30 to 7.30 on Friday evenings and from 10 to 11 a.m. on Saturdays, or after any service.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAYS!** March 6, Priscilla Lowe; 8, Jonathan Starmer-Smith; 9, Jeanne Perrott; 14, Mary Eden; 17, Susan Jeacock; 25, Rosalind Starmer-Smith; 26, Susan Silvester; 31, Peter Fowler.

**SYMPATHY** to the relatives of Mrs. Gurden (age 92) who died on Feb. 18th, and of Paul Davies (age 5 weeks) who died on Feb. 11th.

#### FOR YOUR DIARY, MARCH, 1954.

Pin this list up. For further details of Services and Meetings, see "The St. Nicholas Guide to Marston" (free) and 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.

2. Tu. †8, Marston Parish Council.
3. W. **Ash Wednesday.** \*7.45, Women's Open Meeting, Young Wives, Mothers' Union, and Fathers: Service in Church. ("The Meaning of Lent for the Family").
4. Th. 3, Working Party (Vicarage).
7. S. **I Lent.** 8.15, H.C.; 11, M.P.; 12, H.C.  
3, Family Service (Children and Parents).  
\*6.30, E.P. ("**Youth on Service**").
8. M. \*8, "Monday Night at Eight" (R.R.). The Rev. T. Dyson,  
"The Road to Bethlehem" (A recent journey).
9. Tu. †7.30, Women's Institute (R.R.).
14. S. **II Lent.** 8.15, H.C.; 11, M.P. and Litany.  
\*6.30, E.P.; \*7.30, H.C.
17. W. \*7.45, Young Wives' Group (Alan Court). Musical Evening (Mrs. Cardwell and Mrs. Vernède).
18. Th. 3, Working Party (Vicarage).
21. S. **III Lent.** 8.15, H.C.; 11, M.P.  
\*6.30, E.P. ("**Bring a Friend**")—Favourite Hymns, and at the Reading Room afterwards. **Reunion of Confirmees.**
22. M. \*8, "Monday Night at Eight" (R.R.).
23. Tu. \*2.30, Mothers' Union. Enrolment Service in Church.
25. Th. **Annunciation of B.V.M.** 10.30, H.C.
28. S. **IV Lent.** 8.15, H.C. (M.U. Corporate). 11, M.P. (Scouts and Cubs Parade). \*3, **Mothering Sunday Service.** †† \*6.30, E.P.
31. W. Young Wives' Group—Demonstration at Therm House (Savouries)

**A text to treasure:** "In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust; let us never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness" (Psa. 31, 1).

Professor T. E. Jessop recently told the story of a child, ignorant of religion, who was asked what he had learned at his mother's knee. "I was told not to ladder her nylons" he replied!

**Whose Fault?** A well-known writer was recently asked how she could look round on this disordered suffering world, with its wars and its crimes, the handicaps of the poor, the extravagances of the rich, the cruelties of the powerful, the exploiting of the weak, and still believe that God, Almighty and loving, made it. Her reply was that if she entered a wealthy home and found its nursery floor strewn with broken toys, its walls bespattered with dirty marks, with beautiful picture books torn and disfigured, and the children themselves fighting, she would infer that they had greatly misused the generosity of their parents.