

MARSTON NEWS

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

My dear Friends,

This winter has been trying to many of our friends, I know only too well. But now March comes to us as a hopeful month. For even if we still have some winds and showers, we hope to have left the intense cold and snow behind us; and now there is a reasonable chance of our seeing signs of Spring, the somewhat lighter evenings, the early flowers . . . and thoughts of Easter fast approaching.

It always seems most suitable, therefore, that **Mothering Sunday** should be in March, for this colourful day, with its flowers and with all the family walking out to Church, reminds us that the winter hibernation is over! This year Mothering Sunday comes on **Sunday, March 11th**, rather earlier than usual because Easter is early. But we hope, despite the shortage of flowers, to provide just some little token of spring for every Mother who comes to the Service at 3 p.m. — and we want *every Mother* in the parish, whoever she is and whatever the age of her children, to feel that the Service is for her. There is no need to wait for an invitation: every Mother is automatically entitled to come, preferably with her husband and family.

Then at the end of March is Holy Week, this year marked for us by a **Confirmation** of candidates from our Church on Monday evening, March 26th, at St. Clement's Church. A Confirmation is an important event in the life of a parish, and we warmly welcome the dozen or so young people and adults who by Confirmation and First Communion become full members of our Church.

It is a pity that **Good Friday** is not observed more worthily by Church-people generally. Although many people have to work that day, it is fitting that this commemoration of our Saviour's death upon the Cross should be observed by a visit to Church, and most employers are glad to give facilities upon request. I have invited Mr. Patrick Hamilton, editor of *The Layman* and broadcaster on "Lift up your Hearts", etc., to take our Three-Hour Service, and I hope that every member of our Church will be present at some time during the three hours.

Your friend and Vicar,

GORDON D. SAVAGE.

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH, MARSTON

Vicar: The Rev. Gordon D. Savage, M.A. (Proctor in Convocation), Marston Vicarage, Oxford. Tel. Oxford 47034. (The Vicarage is 11 Elsfield Road, and the Vicar may usually be seen at the Church or Vicarage on Fridays, 6.30 to 7.30 p.m., Saturdays, 10 to 11 a.m., or after any Service.)

Churchwardens: Professor V. T. Harlow, C.M.G., D.Litt., Fir Tree House, Oxford Road; Mr. B. G. Oliver, Marston Road Post Office, 11 Old Marston Road, New Marston.

CHURCH CONCERT

The Neptune Rowing Club will present their first-class entertainment, entitled "An Old-Time Variety Evening", on

FRIDAY, APRIL 6th, at 7.45 p.m.

in the new School, St. Nicholas County Primary School. We are fortunate to have the services of this well-known Concert Party, and you are assured of a very jolly evening, with plenty of laughter and fun for the whole family. All the proceeds will be for the Restoration Fund of the Church.

Please keep this first Friday after Easter free. Tickets will be sold during the course of this month. Be sure to come with your family and your neighbours. Seats may be reserved.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Easter Tuesday, April 3rd, at 7.45. This might be described as the "Annual General Meeting" of our Church, when members receive reports on the activities of the Church, and then afterwards elect the Council, the Sidesmen and other representatives for the ensuing year. This year, the Church is again inviting everyone living in the Parish, whether members of the Church or not, to be present, though voting will be restricted to those qualified to vote. The evening will probably be divided thus:

7.45 to 8.30: Reports on 1955, Questions, Discussion.

8.30 to 9. 0: Tea and Social Intercourse.

9. 0 to 9.30: Elections for the ensuing year.

Please note that important information relating to the Annual Meeting will be posted on the notice board in the Church porch from March 23rd to April 3rd. The Vicar will gladly speak with anyone uncertain about the way in which the business has to be done.

If your name is not on the Electoral Roll, be sure to complete the form of application before March 19th, when the present Revision of the Electoral Roll is completed. The Roll will be hanging in the Church porch from March 20th to April 3rd, and those whose names ought to have been entered on it should verify that the names and addresses do appear, and that the entry is correct.

County Library. The Mobile Van will in future come to the White Hart only on alternate Thursdays, beginning Thursday, March 1st, at the usual time, 2.40 to 3.10 p.m. The call at Mortimer Drive will continue to be every Thursday, 6.30 to 7 p.m.

District Nurse. A warm welcome (albeit in cold weather!) to our new District Nurse, Miss S. Runcke, who took up duties in the middle of February. Nurse Runcke lives at 44 Collinwood Road, Risinghurst, Headington, and is not as yet on the telephone. As soon as the telephone is installed, the number will be given in the next issue of the "Marston News". Our good wishes and grateful thanks go to Nurse Eaton as she moves to Nuneham Courtenay and later this year is to be married: she endeared herself to many in this parish by her effective nursing and cheerful manner.

"Snowball Teas". As one of the efforts to help the Restoration Fund, some ladies are taking part in a sequence of "Snowball Teas". About six people are asked to coffee or tea one day in someone's house, and they are each asked (i) to contribute 6d. each as they leave for the Restoration Fund to the Church; (ii) to go home and plan to do the same, inviting six or so to tea, who will in turn do the same, and so on. Mrs. Barnsley commenced the Snowball with a big tea-party on February 7th, and Mrs. Gunn is the Treasurer of the Mothers' Union part of this effort. Mrs. Smith, 4 Windsor Crescent, followed on February 23rd, and she is the Treasurer of the Young Wives' sequence. The Snowball Teas are useful not only in creating interest and support for the Restoration Fund, but also in bringing people together. We hope that by the end of this year everyone in the parish may have been invited to one of the teas!

Church Fete. The date of this is SATURDAY, JUNE 30TH, and it will once again be held, by kind permission, in the Orchard next to the Reading Room. Please make a note of this date and keep it free.

BURIAL AND CREMATION

As the position over burial in the CHURCHYARD, or the burying of Ashes there, may not be generally known, it has been suggested that the following notes might be made:

(i) Cremation. The ashes of anyone in the Parish or on the Electoral Roll may be brought back and interred in the old CHURCHYARD of St. Nicholas after the Cremation and a memorial stone erected. Two special portions of the CHURCHYARD are reserved as Gardens of Remembrance for the Burial of Ashes, and there are plans for the lay-out and care of these sites. If, of course, there are other members of the family buried in the CHURCHYARD, the Ashes may be placed in one of those graves instead and a stone erected there or an inscription added to an already existing stone. Those who lose a dear one may care to be reminded that they may thus have Ashes brought back close to the door of their Parish Church.

(ii) Churchyard. As notified in the "St. Nicholas Guide to Marston" (Sept., 1953) there are no new grave-spaces available in the CHURCHYARD, so all interments in new graves are in the PARISH CEMETERY (down Elsfeld Road, towards the By-pass), which is administered by the Parish Council (Chairman: Mr. L. C. Jennings) and not by the Church. Ashes may also be buried there. However, anyone who has a relative already buried in a grave in the CHURCHYARD may also be buried in that grave, provided there was room left in the grave when it was dug or that sufficient time has elapsed since the last interment, and provided the nearest relatives give their consent.

(iii) Service before Burial. A Service may be held in St. Nicholas Church before every funeral, whether it is to be in the CHURCHYARD, in the PARISH CEMETERY, some Cemetery elsewhere or at the Crematorium.

In view of these facts, relatives are advised to talk over funeral arrangements with the Vicar before deciding about the Service and place of burial. Some undertakers are not familiar with local conditions. To have a Service in the Parish Church, and also (when it is possible and requested) to have the burial, or burial of ashes, in the CHURCHYARD, in surroundings which are familiar, is of added comfort to mourners; and it is advised that thought should be given to this matter in advance.

Progress Report. A Church is not to be judged solely by its numbers and size of collections. But the following figures give encouragement:

	1953	1954	1955
Number of Communicants (693) ...	1,226	1,363	1,449
Total Collections (£126)	£267	£333	£421
Electoral Roll (38)	90	174	222

The figures in brackets are those for 1950. Besides the money given to the Church in collections there is a very heartening and increasing number of gifts, big and small, given to the Church to mark some anniversary, or a baptism, wedding or confirmation, or in memory of a loved one.

Wants. The Cromwell Club needs a table tennis table, new or second-hand. Any offers or suggestions? Also a set of draughts and chessmen, and other games. The Vicar would also be glad to hear of anyone having cups, other crockery and cutlery or furniture suitable for use at the Reading Room.

Our Sympathy to the relatives of Mr. Percy Spencer, Miss Annie Bleay, Mr. William Wright, Mrs. Mary Aries, Mr. Charles Haynes, Mr. Fred Gunn, Mrs. E. Moles and Mr. F. G. Holding, who passed away during January and February.

FOR YOUR DIARY, MARCH, 1956

- 4 S. *III Lent.* 8.15, H.C. 11, M.P. 12, H.C. 6.30 ("Youth on Service"), E.P.
- 6 Tu. 2.45-3.30, Pram Service.
- 7 W. 7.45, Young Wives' Group (Reading Room). Mrs. Harlow: "Recent Travels in the Far East".
- 9 F. (7.30, Teacher-Parent Meeting.)
- 11 S. *IV Lent.* 8.15, H.C. 11, M.P. 3-4 p.m., **Mothering Sunday Service.** 6.30, E.P. 7.30, H.C. (Corporate Communion for Mothers, Young Wives and their Husbands).
- 13 Tu. (7, Women's Institute.)
- 15 Th. (2.40, County Library.) (7.30, Teacher-Parent Meeting.)
- 18 S. *V Lent.* 8.15, H.C. 11, M.P. (Preacher: Rev. K. C. Cooper, Vicar of Cumnor). 6.30, E.P. ("Bring a Friend Service"), Admission of Choristers, Organist and Verger.
- 21 W. 7.45, Young Wives' Group (Reading Room). Mrs. Chaundy: "My Village History".
- 22 Th. 3, Mothers' Union Festival at All Saints, Highfield.
- 25 S. *Palm Sunday.* 8.15, H.C. (M.U.). 11, M.P. (Distribution of Palms to Children). 6.30, E.P.
- 26 M. Confirmation at St. Clement's Church.
- 27 Tu. 2.45, Mothers' Union Service in Church.
- 29 Th. 7.45, **Maundy Thursday Evening Service: a Commemoration of the Institution of the Lord's Supper.** (2.40, County Library.)
- 30 F. *Good Friday* (details of Services on separate notices).
- 31 S. 10 onwards, decorate Church.
- April 1. **EASTER DAY** (details of Services on separate notices).
8.15, The Easter Communion. 11, Festival Service. 12, H.C.
3, Children's Gift Service. 6.30, Festival Service. 7.30, H.C.