

My dear Friends,

This letter is being delivered to you on ASCENSION DAY, May 19: this is a great festival of the Christian Church, and on the days that follow it there are this year several important events of special interest to you. And to these I give you, in the name of the Church, a specially warm and personal invitation.

*Gordon D. Savage*

THIS FRIDAY:

CONFIRMATION. A Confirmation Service will be taken by the Bishop of Dorchester in our Church

THIS FRIDAY, 20 MAY at 8 P.M.

All are welcome at this Service. If you are already members of the Church, come and support by your presence and your prayers these who are to be admitted to full membership. If you are not confirmed yourself, come and see what takes place, and then think it over before the next Confirmation.

It will be an encouragement for our young people to have the Church full of people, so when you hear the bells ringing, come along and spend the hour with them on this great day in their lives. This year we have 18 Confirmees: 5 adults, 9 girls and 4 boys.

THIS COMING SUNDAY:

FIRST COMMUNION. Those confirmed on Friday will come to their First Communion on

SUNDAY NEXT, 22 MAY at 8.15 A.M.

This is the day for which they have been preparing, and when we welcome them at the Lord's Table we hope that as many of "the family" as possible will be there. So all communicants are specially invited to come on Sunday morning next and to greet the newly-confirmed. This "First Communion" will be followed by:

A PARISH BREAKFAST. This will be in the Reading Room at 9 a.m. or soon after. We are hoping that the newly-confirmed and their relatives or friends and other communicants will come to this Breakfast. The newly-Confirmed come as our guests. Others are asked to pay the bare cost which is expected to be less than 2/- a head. If you can come, please endeavour to let me or Mr. Oliver know by 6 p.m. on Saturday.

The Parish Breakfast will be followed by:

AN EMPIRE YOUTH SERVICE, in Church at Morning Prayer, 11 a.m. As this is Empire Youth Sunday, there will be special Prayers and Lessons at Morning Prayer, and we shall have the privilege of hearing PROFESSOR V.T.HARLOW, C.M.G., D.Litt. It is important that the rising generation should understand both the changing pattern of the Commonwealth and also the privileges and responsibilities of our Family of Nations. We therefore specially invite parents to come with their young people to hear Dr. Harlow, who is the Beit Professor of the History of the British Empire. During the Service a MESSAGE FROM QUEEN ELIZABETH II will be read.

Sat. May 21st. A Family Outing of the Young Wives Group to Woodstock, with a conducted tour of the Palace, followed by tea as guests of Woodstock Parish Church. Coach leaves the Reading Room at 2.30, returning by 6 p.m.

Farewell to Billy Graham: The B.B.C. broadcasts from 8 to 9 p.m. in its Light Programme the last of the seven great services in the Empire Stadium, Wembley. What weather it has been for these services!

A Call and a Promise: "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near... Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee." (Isaiah, chapter 55, verse 6 and chapter 26, verse 3)

Every Sunday: Holy Communion at 8.15 (also at 12 o'clock on 1st Sun. of month, and at 7.30 p.m. on the 2nd); Morning Prayer at 11; Evening Prayer at 6.30. Sunday School at 2.55. Visitors are specially welcome at any Service.

Mon. May 23, 7.30: C.M.S. Rally at St. Aldate's Rectory Room  
Tue. May 24, 2.45: Mothers' Union at Reading Room (Mrs Barnsley)  
Thur. May 26 The General Election (24th: 8p.m. Fete Committee)

WHITSUN DAY, May 29th: 8.15 and 12: Holy Communion  
11.00 Morning Prayer. 2.55: Sunday School (Whitsun Farthings)  
6.30 Evening Prayer ("The Oxford Martyrs")

Mon. May 30, 10.45 to 12: WHIT-MONDAY ELEVENSES". Come along to the Reading Room as a family on Whit Monday for "Elevensea" and other attractions. Full details on posters in the parish. Mrs. Bing and Mrs. Davics first arranged this effort last year, when the features included: Coffee & Biscuits & Cakes, Shoe-cleaning, flowers for sale, Bring and Buy Stall. The result was £10.5.0, a valuable contribution to the Fete. It is hoped this year to give a demonstration of Country Dancing.

Sitto 3 p.m. Service in St. Mary the Virgin, Oxford, to commemorate the martyrdom of Bishop Ridley and Bishop Latimer, 1555. Laity are invited to join the Procession at St. John's College, 2 p.m.

Tue. May 31. 2.30, Children's FARTHING SERVICE in the Cathedral.

Wed. June 1, 11 to 5, Missionary Sale in the Town Hall, Oxford.

7.45, Young Wives Group (R.R.) - Occupational Therapy.

June 5: TRINITY SUNDAY. H.C. at 8.15 and 12. M.P. at 11  
E.F. at 6.30. Family Service at 2.55

At the Evening Service we shall specially remember in prayer our NINE PARISH COUNCILLORS as they meet on June 7th for the first time, and our newly-elected M.P. and Parliament as it assembles on the same day.

Tue. June 7, 2.45 to 3.30. Pram Service for Mothers & Children.

Wed. June 8, Oxford Diocesan Conference.

Sat. June 11: 8 to 9.15: M.U. Wave of Prayer. Service in Church at 9 a.m. 2.30 to 5.30: Sunday School Outing.

3.30: Diocesan Youth Festival (Cathedral).

ADVANCE NOTICE: June 15, Annual Meeting of Young Wives; June 18, Bell-Ringers Outing; June 19, Evening Service on the Recreation Ground if fine (British Legion); June 28, M.U. Service; June 29, Y.W.G. Outing to Botanical Gardens.

SATURDAY JULY 2ND: C H U R C H F E T E

"A DATE FOR EVERYONE" is Sat. July 2nd, the Church Fete. So be sure to keep it free. Full details will be circulated to every house. Please be sure to give it every support you can both before and on the day. In view of the serious FLAKING STONEMWORK of our 12th century church, which will cost SEVERAL THOUSANDS OF POUNDS TO REPAIR, the proceeds of the Fete will be entirely for this Fund. The Church belongs to everyone.

GENERAL ELECTION. The Church does not ally herself with any political party. She calls upon her members to give themselves to the unselfish service of the state and community and to find that service in each or any of the political parties according to their conscience and judgment. This means that the Church should have both an aloofness from politics and yet a great influence on their conduct. In this country we have the privilege of recording our vote freely, and it seems to be a Christian duty to use that privilege, at the same time seeking to avoid prejudice or bitterness or distortion either at the time or after the Election. Polling Day: THURSDAY NEXT, May 26th.

Good wishes to FAMELA LEE, May Queen, and Diane Horsington & Eileen Sumner, her maids of honour, all members of our Sunday School. Also to WENDY JARRETT, also a member of our Church, on being elected New Marston's May Queen.