

MARSTON NEWS

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



My dear Friends,

John Wesley was walking one day with a troubled man who expressed his doubt of God's goodness. "I don't know what I shall do with all my worry and trouble," he said. At that moment Wesley noticed a cow looking over a stone wall. "Do you know," asked Wesley, "why that cow is looking over that wall?" "No," replied his troubled companion. "I will tell you," said Wesley. "It is because she cannot see through it. That is what you must do with your wall of trouble—look over it, above it and beyond it." Faith enables us to look over and above every trouble unto God, who is our help.

Few things give greater joy to a Vicar's heart than to be able to help someone to "look over the wall" and to seek God's special grace for a difficult path; that indeed is one of his first tasks, and he can never be asked too often or too much to do this.

It has been specially encouraging to see the way in which the people of this Church have resolutely and enthusiastically faced the task of restoring and beautifying our ancient House of God. Very few indeed are the people who expect never to make any use of their Parish Church and who would not be grieved if it were no longer there for them and their children. Fewer still are the people who do not recognise that the Church is a symbol of the most effective counterblast to Communism and the safeguard of what we hold dear. Now therefore is the time for us to give a practical expression to our faith, and we whose good fortune it is to live in Marston will do all we can to ensure that our Parish Church is now worthily restored. And those who follow us will recognise that we of this generation sought to be faithful in our time.

For me one of the most powerful incentives to Christian work and giving is the command of our Saviour, "Freely ye have received, freely give." Freely indeed have each of us received, from God, from our parents and loved ones, and from those who have lived before us here.

Your friend and Vicar,

GORDON D. SAVAGE.

Empire Youth Sunday. The name of this Sunday may mislead, for at least one family stayed away last year because the parents imagined the service would be "jingoistic". However we may regard the past, our country today has responsibilities towards the Commonwealth and Empire. Our responsibilities are great, and if we are to avoid mistakes, to strengthen what is right and to have a proper regard to our duties, it is proper that we should calmly assess our responsibilities in the sight of Almighty God. One modern problem which is now in our midst is the "colour bar", and we cannot ignore it. We are fortunate in having as our special preacher on Empire Youth Sunday, Professor V. T. Harlow, C.M.G., whose Chair at Balliol College is the Beit Professorship of the History of the British Empire. It is specially hoped that all young people, and our coloured friends, will be present. The date is Sunday, May 13th, at 11 o'clock.

Visitor to Moscow. On Whitsun Day morning our preacher will be the Rev. John Taylor, Principal of Wycliffe Hall, who has recently been chosen to visit Moscow for the talks with Church leaders there in July. He is taking part as an Anglican delegate in the talks with the Methodist Church. As Marston has received so much help from Wycliffe Hall, the Principal may be assured of a warm welcome on his first visit.

Whitsun Farthings. The children manage to keep pretty dark their collection of farthings, and we have in the past had some pleasant surprises. Has anyone collected 10,000 yet? The two who collect the most are asked to represent the parish at the Service in the Cathedral and to hand the cheque to the Bishop for the work of the Diocese (they used to give the Bishop the farthings until he nearly fell beneath the weight!). Incidentally, the collection is not confined to children: adults may also contribute, and in these days of shortage of farthings it is not necessary for the contribution to be in farthings.

"Marston Market." Be sure to come to the Reading Room at 10.30 every Saturday morning to give and to receive produce, cakes, books and other saleable articles. Bargains for all! All proceeds to the Restoration Fund. Mrs. Kensington (Church Cottage) is arranging this.

Whitsun Monday "Elevenes". And be sure to come with your family to "Elevenes" at the Reading Room on Whit-Monday. If you wish to make a contribution, cakes about the value of 2/- each will be welcomed.



SOME FUTURE DATES TO NOTE

TUESDAY, JUNE 5TH. CHRISTENING REUNION PARTY. All who have had their children baptised in St. Nicholas Church since June, 1952, are invited to this party on the Vicarage lawn.

SUNDAY, JUNE 17TH, 6.30. MARRIAGE REUNION. All who have been married in St. Nicholas Church are invited to come to this Service.

SATURDAY, JUNE 30TH. THE CHURCH FETE: Marston's Summer Event, which everyone attends.

TUESDAY, JULY 24TH. MOTHERS' UNION GARDEN PARTY.

Scouts and Cubs. Thank you to all who helped the 43rd Oxford (St. Nicholas, Marston) Cubs and Scouts in their "Bob-a-Job" effort.

Concert on April 6th. The Hall of St. Nicholas County Primary School was completely full for the concert by the Neptune Rowing Club on Friday evening, April 6th. All who were present agreed that the Club gave us a first-class entertainment. Thank you to the Concert Party, and to all who supported this effort in various ways. This resulted in the sum of £43 10s. 0d. being raised for the Church Restoration Fund.

Restoration Fund News. The Fund is now nearing £400. The APRON in which you were invited to sew sums produced £6 2s. 0d. PHOTOGRAPHS of the Concert Party and audience are obtainable, 2/- each, all profits for the Fund. "MARSTON MARKET" will be held at the Reading Room every Saturday now onwards, from 10.30 to 11. The LENTEN BOXES so far opened have contained £19 2s. 3d. "SNOWBALL TEAS" have been held by Mrs. Barnsley, Mrs. Vernede and Mrs. Smith. The MODEL of the Church collected £1 1s. 2d. on the evening of the Concert. Mrs. Bing and Mrs. Davies are arranging the "WHIT-MONDAY ELEVENSES". During the early part of

May the RESTORATION APPEAL LETTER will reach every parishioner of this Church, and this is commended to your earnest thought and prayer: if everyone who received it gave 3d. a week to the Fund during the next three years, the cost of the Restoration would be almost met, and anyone who prefers to give weekly is invited to tell this to one of the officials of the Fund.

Mormons or Latter-Day Saints. Two Mormon Missionaries have made a dead-set at this Parish during recent weeks. We recognise their sincerity and zeal, but no one instructed in the Christian faith is likely to be led astray by them, and indeed they have met their match at many a house at which they have called. In the series of sermons on various sects and heresies, the one on Mormons will be on Sunday, May 6th, at 6.30.

What do you know of Marston?

The ecclesiastical and civil Parish of Marston are of the same area, and the parish is surrounded by water, by the River Cherwell on the west and by the Bayswater Brook in its two parts on the north and south.

From the earliest recorded times, the Church has been at the heart of the village's life, certainly since the year 1122, when Henry I granted St. Nicholas Church to St. Frideswide's Monastery in Oxford. Parts of the present building date from that time.

The Church, as the "oldest inhabitant" which has served the community for over 800 years, opens its arms wide in welcoming the many newcomers, seeking to bring together the old and the new in a fellowship of service and understanding.

The Vicar is always glad to describe the Church and its treasures, especially to young people. Some points of interest: the pre-Reformation chalice (c. 1450); the Belfry Clock and Weights (18th C.); the Clarinet (18th C.); the Holy Table (15th C.?); Jacobean Pulpit; Hagioscope; Ancient Aumbry; Communion Rails (17th C.); Pews and Returned Stall; Churchwardens' Accounts from 1540.

Among local buildings note Cromwell's House and Manor House (where Oliver Cromwell and General Fairfax planned in 1645 the siege of Oxford, and where the surrender of Oxford was received in 1646) and Cannon's Farm, scheduled under Town and Country Planning Act, 1946. Also Cross Farm and Court Place.

Among Marston customs are May Dances and Crowning of the May Queen. Hand-bell Ringers at Christmas.

GENERAL INFORMATION. The village is two and a quarter miles N.N.E. of Oxford (and the parish runs to within 1055 yards of Carfax), in the Henley Parliamentary Division of Oxfordshire (Mr. John Hay, U. M.P.), the Hundred, the Petty Sessional Division and the Rural District of Bullingdon and the County Court district of Oxford. Population (estimated): 2,500. Area: 1,011 acres.

OFFICIALS OF THE CHURCH

At the ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING AND EASTER VESTRY on April 3rd, 1956, the following were elected as CHURCHWARDENS for the coming year:

Professor V. T. Harlow, C.M.G., M.A., D.Litt.
Mr. B. G. Oliver.

The following elections were also made:

To the PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL: Mrs. Eaton, Mrs. Green, Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Walker, Mr. Bangs, Dr. Carter, Messrs. R. Journeaux, Maund, Priestley, Swain and Wilkins.

To the RURIDECANAL CONFERENCE: Mrs. Barnsley, Mrs. Biag, Mrs. Gunn, Mrs. Harlow, Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Savage, Mrs. Vernède, Mrs. Wren, Miss D. E. Hill, Messrs. Cattermole, Heatley, Jennings, Oliver and Starmer-Smith.

As SIDESMEN: Messrs. Britt, C. W. Carter, J. Carter, Cattermole, Clarke, Gammon, Gunn, Harley, Heyes, Hill, Holmes, Jarrett, Jenkins, Jennings, Jones, C. Journeaux, R. Journeaux, Kensington, Maund, Paterson, Philips, Smith, Starmer-Smith, Swain, Toms, Walton, Warman, Waters, Weaver, Woodward and Wren.

Mrs. Carter and Mr. Wren are ex-officio members of the P.C.C. and of the Ruridecanal Conference. The Churchwardens and representatives to the Ruridecanal Conference are ex-officio members of the Parochial Church Council.



FOR YOUR DIARY, MAY, 1956

Every Sunday: 8.15, Holy Communion. 11, Morning Prayer.
6.30, Evening Prayer. Additional notes given below.

- 1 Tu. SS. *Philip & James*. 2.45, Pram Service. Scripture Union Rally.
- 2 W. 3, *Islip R.D.* Conference. 7.45, Young Wives' Group (R.R.): "Dress".
- 3 Th. 3, Working Party (Vicarage). 7.45, Parochial Church Council (R.R.).
- 5 S. 10.30, "Marston Market" (R.R.). 3.30-7, Diocesan Youth Festival (Cathedral; Town Hall).

- 6 S. *Rogation Sunday*. 12, H.C. 6.30, "Youth on Service". Sermon subject: THE MORMON MOVEMENT.
- 7-9. Rogation Days.
- 8 Tu. (7, W.I.)
- 10 Th. *Ascension Day*. 9.30, H.C. (2.40, County Library.)
- 12 S. 10.30, "Marston Market" (R.R.). Y.W.G., Family Outing.

- 13 S. *Sunday after Ascension* (EMPIRE YOUTH SUNDAY). 11, Preacher: Professor V. T. Harlow. 7.30 p.m., H.C.
- 16 W. 7.45, Young Wives' Group (R.R.), "My Pet Recipe".
- 17 Th. 3, Working Party (Vicarage).
- 18-28. St. Nicholas County School holidays.
- 19 S. 10.30, "Marston Market" (R.R.).

- 20 S. ; *Whitsun Day*. 11, Preacher: Rev. F. J. Taylor (Principal of Wycliffe Hall). 6.30, "Bring a Friend" Service (and at Reading Room afterwards).
- 21 M. 10.30 onward, "Elevenses" (R.R.).
- 22 Tu. 2.30, Whitsun Farthings Service (Cathedral). 7.45, Mothers' Union and Young Wives' Group (R.R.): Mrs. Thorp.
- 23, 25, 26. Ember Days.
- 24 Th. (2.40, County Library.)
- 26 S. 10.30, "Marston Market" (R.R.).

- 27 S. *Trinity Sunday*. 8.15, M.U. Corporate Communion.
- 31 Th. 3, Working Party (Vicarage).