

MARSTON NEWS

The News-Letter of St. Nicholas Church, Marston, Oxford
delivered to every home in the Parish

A MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR

My dear Friends,

We expect to see "the last lap" of the Restoration of the Church commenced this month. Marston is very proud to see this much-needed work on its Church being undertaken. But we shall need the help of *every single person* in the parish if we are to pay for the work before it is completed this summer. As we look back over the past twelve months, since the Appeal was first launched, it is remarkable to note just how many people, and groups of people, in the parish have co-operated in various ways. Is it too much to hope that when the work is completed, we shall be able to look back and remark on the fact that *every house* in the parish has contributed in some way or another? On another page will be seen the further list of contributions, a note of the further work now about to be undertaken, and some suggestions on ways in which help may be given.

I much hope that by the time I leave Marston the cost of the Restoration will have been fully met. There are two lessons for us here: the first is that by tackling a difficult task in stages the Church has been able to do this work of Restoration without getting into debt. The second is that in each generation, whoever the particular Churchwardens or Church Council or Vicars may be, we are called upon to do what is necessary to pass on in good condition the wonderful inheritance which we have received from the past. And as we complete the work in hand this year, we shall feel that we have done only what it is our duty and privilege to do.

Just before Easter I was able to call on my predecessor, the Rev. J. H. Mortimer. He was in bed again, but was making progress after twelve days' enforced rest. He sent his Christian love and greetings to the parish, and I was able to convey your greetings to him. The parish owes much to his long and faithful ministry here. Mr. Mortimer had a remarkable premonition that I might be invited to leave Marston about a month before I was offered the Archdeaconry of Buckingham, and I was able to tell him when I saw him that his letter at that time helped me in making my decision, for he wrote, "I pray you will not let either your natural reluctance to leave Marston and her people who love you, or their (and my) regret at losing you stand in your way." He, like myself, will be much in prayer that the man of God's choice may be led to accept the Bishop of Oxford's invitation to become my successor here.

Your friend and Vicar,

GORDON D. SAVAGE.

NOTE.—Sunday, May 19th, HUSBANDS' AND WIVES' SERVICE, 6.30 p.m.

ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH, MARSTON

Vicar: The Venerable Gordon D. Savage, M.A. (Archdeacon of Buckingham Proctor in Convocation), Marston Vicarage, Oxford. Tel. Oxford 476. (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, and at other times by appointment.)

Hon. Licensed Reader: Professor V. T. Harlow, C.M.G., D.Litt.

Parish Worker: Miss M. S. Liles, c/o The Vicarage.

Churchwardens: Professor V. T. Harlow, C.M.G., D.Litt., Fir Tree House, Oxford Road; Mr. B. G. Oliver, Marston Road Post Office. (Deputy Vicar's Warden: Dr. C. W. Carter.)

Holy Baptism. Welcome to the following baptised in St. Nicholas Church: Anthony Michael NARRACOTT (Nov. 11th), Karen Louise JOHNSON (Nov. 25th), Janice Kay COOPER (Dec. 9th), Raymond Peter DALLAWAY (Dec. 16th), Stephen William PALMER (Dec. 30th), Anne Denise PARKER (Dec. 30th), Jane Rosalind IBELL (Jan. 6th), Vincent John SIMMONDS (Jan. 20th), Nicholas Maurice CLARKE (Feb. 17th), Richard James POTTER (Feb. 17th), Stephen John WHIPP (Feb. 17th), Carmen Joyce JOHNSON (Mar. 3rd), Keith Arthurfield EUDELL (Mar. 3rd), Glenn Paul HAZLEDINE (Mar. 31st), Christine HEWITT (Apr. 7th), Peter RATHBONE (Apr. 7th), Stephen Paul AYRES (Apr. 7th), Rhonda Ann KEPPEL (Apr. 21st), Andrew PETHER (Apr. 21st), Christine FRANKLIN (Apr. 21st).

Electoral Roll. At the Revision last month the Electoral Roll of our Church had on it 369 names, and as a result this parish will have 16 representatives on the Cowley Ruridecanal Conference. The number on the Electoral Roll had risen from 44 in 1952 to 369 this year, allowing for the 59 names deleted through death or removal.

Confirmation. Classes are now re-commencing for the Confirmation to be held on Thursday, July 11th, by the Bishop of Dorchester. The Vicar will be glad to have private talks with adults who are interested in Confirmation. Every parent who has baptised children ought to consider seriously their own confirmation, which is the "completion" of baptism.

Sunday School Anniversary Sunday. All children in the parish are invited to come to Church at 3 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, May 5th, with parents and friends also. Special Anniversary Hymns and Birthday Greetings.

Visiting Postcards. Every house in the parish now has a postcard addressed to the Vicar, so all you have to do if you have sickness, or you know of someone with sickness in the house, is to post the card or to hand it to Mr. Oliver, in order that the Vicar may be informed and call. Everyone in the parish is in the care of the parish church, so do not let us miss the privilege of closer contact with you whilst you are unwell.

Missionary Work. The hearts of all, young and old, always thrill to stories of missionary work. On Sunday, May 12th, at 11 o'clock, the preacher will be Canon H. D. Hooper, who was for many years a missionary in Africa.

Restoration Work to be done. The estimates received from Messrs. Axtell & Perry for the second stage of the Restoration are, subject to wages increases:

	£	s.	d.
West Elevation	40	12	0
North Elevation	86	10	0
North Aisle (East)	44	3	0
Chancel (North)	49	3	0
Chancel (East): Renew part label and head mould, carving, renew mullion, plinth capping, super ashlar below plinth	252	5	0
Chancel (South): Renew label mould to window, renew mullion, label mould to doorway, carved bosses ...	116	10	0
South Aisle: Renew piecing to window jambs, mullion, moulded string course, super ashlar below plinth ...	103	10	0
South Aisle (West)	52	15	0
Entrance Porch: Renew base stones	36	10	0
	£781	18	0

In each case, the figure allows for brushing down all loose and flaking stonework, repointing as necessary, and treating over all with a heavy coat of stone preservative.

Restoration Gifts. In continuance of the list in the November issue, "thank you" to the following whose gifts are gratefully received towards the Restoration Fund:—1956: "A Thankoffering", Mrs. M. Pickle, Mrs. L. Robinson, Mr. J. Saunders, Mr. E. C. Munkley, Mr. and Mrs. A. King, Mr. W. J. Boley, Mr. F. Haynes. 1957: Mrs. Cummings, Mr. F. R. Thain (in memory of Mrs. O. Thain), Anonymous, Dr. and Mrs. Hewitt, "Ann", "A Friend in the U.S.A.", "In Memory of Mrs. Wood", Miss M. Wellings, Mr. R. A. Haynes, Miss Wroughton, Mrs. Cadd, the Rev. R. C. S. Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. N. Teasdale.

So far this year, over £90 has been collected thus:

	£	s.	d.
Weekly Envelopes	6	0	0
Monthly Envelopes	2	6	0
Church Collections	3	8	0
Church Box	6	15	6
Donations (as above)	23	0	0
Various Sales	8	8	0
Boxes and Tins	10	3	8
Street Carols	15	3	0
Concert in February	15	10	0

The Lenten Boxes have not yet been opened, but the weighing machine at Mr. Oliver's shop collected during Lent the sum of £4 18s. 2d. Congratulations on this 1,178 penny collection!

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 55: 6 and 26: 3).

How can I help the Restoration Fund? You can help in any or all of the following ways. Please tell the Secretary of the Fund, Mrs. D. Carter, the Churchwardens or the Vicar, to give you any further information: 1, supporting the "Marston Market" every Saturday morning; 2, by using a Weekly or Monthly Envelope (envelopes supplied free); 3, by having a little model church collecting box; 4, by supporting the "Whit-Monday Elevenes" (June 10th) at the Orchard Cottage; 5, by making saleable articles, or collecting articles, for the Church Fête (July 6th); 6, by arranging a "Snowball Tea" at your home; 7, by using the Greetings Cards; 8, by sending copies of the "Restoration Appeal Letter", with 1956 accounts printed on it, to your friends.

Getting Things Straight. Often people tell you they do not pray because Christ is not real to them. The truth of the matter is, Christ is not real to them because they do not pray.

The measure of what you can do for the world is the measure of what you let God do with you yourself.



BIBLE QUIZ

Anyone may still enter for the monthly Quiz. Prizes will be awarded to winners aged twelve and under, and to others over twelve years. Please send your entries to the Vicarage by May 15th.

PART A (12 years and under)

1. Why did not Thomas believe that Jesus had really risen from the dead? (St. John, chapter 20, verses 24 and 25.)
2. What was Jesus' last command to His disciples? (St. Matthew, chapter 28, verses 16 to 20.)
3. Mary's hymn of praise in St. Luke, chapter 1, verses 46 to 55 is called in the Book of Common Prayer.
4. How many disciples were walking to Emmaus on the first Easter Day when Jesus overtook them? (St. Luke, chapter 24, verses 13 to 15.)
5. Name three people in the Bible beginning with the letter "P". Give references if possible.

PART B (13 years and upwards)

1. In St. Luke, chapter 24, verse 48, we read "Ye are witnesses of these things". To which things does this refer?
2. St. Luke, chapter 24, verse 27, refers to Moses and the prophets. Do you know of two references to our Lord Jesus Christ in the Old Testament?
3. Which Gospel begins with the same words as the first Book of the Bible, Genesis?
4. Which is your favourite chapter in the Bible, and why?
5. Name some of the "I am's" in St. John's Gospel.