

# MARSTON NEWS

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

## A MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR.

My dear Friends,

I wonder what a man from Mars would think was a characteristic of our Church—and by “our Church” I mean the most important part of it, the people who belong to it. I would hope that the man from Mars would soon feel at home in Marston (which he might well imagine was named after his planet!) and that somehow he would recognise that one mark of those who love our Church was that we were “people who care.” We live in a somewhat carefree age, when many people care for no-one but themselves: of the rest of life “they couldn’t care less.” But I hope that we are all learning more and more the Christian task of caring for others. Having a concern for their well-being, endeavouring to share anxieties and troubles, and rejoicing in the happiness of others. I do so long that written invisibly over the whole of our parish there may be the motto, “The Church Cares”—and by “the Church” I mean you and me, that you and I may care for everything which affects the well-being of our neighbour and our community.

Perhaps this task of “caring” begins at home, and that the man from Mars would spot that we cared for others because we first had a care for ourselves and our homes. Some people don’t care for themselves, for they have forgotten their value as the creation of God. By caring about our own souls we may be led to see the wonderful possibility of new life from God. By caring for the souls of our children and those in our home, we may bring them into the fulness of living, the Christian life. By caring for God we learn the true care for our fellowmen.

Perhaps in this way the man from Mars would learn of God’s so great a love and care for this world that He gave His dear Son to be our Saviour. We love, and care, because He first loved us.

Will you please remember that phrase, “The Church Cares?” Remember that I care intensely about all that happens to you and yours, and that as a Church we are here to tell everyone that “God cares.”

Your friend and Vicar,

*Gordon D. Savage*

**Remembrance Day (November 7th).** “Lest we Forget.” This year Remembrance Day will be Sunday, November 7th, when there will be acts of remembrance at our Services at 8.15 and 6.30, in addition to our Morning Service of Remembrance, which includes the Silence and the reading of the Names at the War Memorial in Church. This Service commences at 10.55, and all parishioners are invited to share in this Service of Remembrance. The local branch of the British Legion will be attending the Evening Service which happens to be the monthly “Youth on Service,” remembrance of the past thus being linked with prayers for the future.

**Husbands and Wives (November 21st).** Several husbands and wives have commented on the help it is to them to be able to come to Church

together. Many in our parish know that to be true, but the arrival of children has temporarily put a stop to their coming to Church together, and then it has been difficult to start again. To kneel together in the House of God is a precious and strengthening act. At our monthly "Bring a Friend" Service on Sunday evening, November 21st, at 6.30, we are specially inviting husbands and wives to come together. So be sure to keep the evening free, and why not make a real outing of it by coming on to the Reading Room for a short while afterwards? If you have difficulty in leaving children the Young Wives' Group and the Youth Club of the Church have promised to do all they can to answer any requests for "baby sitters," if you will send a note to the Vicarage as early as possible. Please plan and pray that this may be a memorable service for many.

**Sick Visiting.** Is there anyone who would care to help from time to time with the task of visiting the sick in their homes or in hospital? This is a very rewarding task, for a visit or some flowers can greatly cheer someone who is sick, especially if they have few visitors. Some friends of the Church have already helped in this way, but more can be used, and the Vicar would be very glad to give further information to anyone interested. Has anyone a tape recorder for recording services and then playing them over to "shut-in"?

**Boys of between 14 and 16!** You can win £250 by writing an essay of between 500 and 800 words on "The Career of My Choice and Why I Consider it Worth Doing." There is no entrance fee for this prize, which is being awarded by the Hatters of Saville Row, London. Full information from the Vicar.

**Pictures in Your Home.** The Vicar brought back from the U.S.A. some 30 coloured slides of his visit to the Anglican Congress in the U.S.A. If you have electricity in your house and would care to invite a few neighbours into your house to share the evening, the Vicar would be glad to show these slides, some other pictures and his scrapbook in any house in the parish. Just name an evening that you could manage, and then fix it with the Vicar. It is suggested that the best time to meet is 8 p.m., ending about 9.15. Screen and projector can be brought with the slides—all you do is to provide the room and a few neighbours.

**Heating the Church.** About the time you receive this newsletter you will also receive a letter about the heating of the Church. Marston people will be proud to have this modern and very efficient equipment in their parish Church, which is the first in this part of England to instal it. Be sure to test its efficiency yourself, even on the very coldest days.

**Two Memorable Sundays.** Were you present when our Church was crammed full, with all the extra seats brought from the Reading Room also in use, on the evenings of October 3rd (Harvest Thanksgiving) and October 17th (the eve of St. Luke's Day)? We hope no one was turned away, nor ever will be, for in the last resort, space and cushions in the Chancel can be brought into use, as they are on the Sunday before Christmas and on Mothering Sunday.

**Sunday School and Bible Classes.** We are grateful to St. Michael's House, and to students from Pembroke College and Keble College for their help on Sunday afternoons.

**Christmas Poster Competition.** Well-bound editions of the Prayer Book are offered as prizes for the best "Carols by Candlelight" posters written or painted by members of St. Nicholas' Church. Full details may be seen on the notice in the upstairs room of the Reading Room. Age will be taken into account.

**Wycliffe Hall.** Welcome to Dick Spurin, Michael Gardener, Frank Lindars and Selwyn Kronenberg, who are studying to become clergymen, and who are coming over to Marston all this term and perhaps also in subsequent terms. They are sharing in our parish life in every way they are given the opportunity. Thank you for the welcome you have already given them. Michael Gardener is a Rover Scout and every week he is bringing other Scouts to assist with our own St. Nicholas Troop.

**Deaths.** Recently, two distinguished men who had notably served this Church and this Parish were called to their eternal rest. Mr. Seymour Vesey-FitzGerald had lived at Little Acreage, served as Corresponding Manager of the School and in many ways benefitted the Church and village. Formerly in India as a Judge, he had more recently been Professor of Oriental Laws at London University. He died at Bournemouth at the age of 70 years. Professor Clement Webb, an eminent theologian and philosopher, died on October 5th at the age of 89. He and Mrs. Webb had lived at Walnut Tree House and were much loved in the Parish, he serving the Church as Warden for a number of years.

**The Church Army's Sale of Work (November 17th).** The Church Army in London will have its Annual Sale of Work on November 17th, and the Vicar will be taking a parcel of gifts from this Parish on Monday, November 15th. We are asked to contribute fancy goods, beads, artificial jewellery, linen, needlework, knitted goods, or groceries, cakes, fruit and jam. The Church Army does a valuable work for the Church, and we ourselves were able to benefit from it when the Church Army Sisters stayed with us in July.

**Deanery Missionary Festival.** A warm "thank you" to all who helped in any way. The sale of teas resulted in a profit of £7 7s. 6d., which was sent to the Church Missionary Society, and the Collection in Church (for the Bible Society) amounted to £5 14s. 4d. The Islip Deanery raised £133 for foreign missions when it visited St. Nicholas, Marston, that afternoon.

**Welcome!** Nearly every week some new house in Marston is completed and occupied. We warmly welcome our new residents and invite them to find out the "family spirit" and fellowship which mark our Church.

**Sympathy.** Our sincere sympathy and remembrance to Mr. and Mrs. Hall on the death of Mr. Samuel Hall, aged 85, and to Mr. Smith, of Nicholas Avenue, on the death of Mrs. A. L. Smith, aged 59.

**Squash for Teenagers (November 7th).** All boys and girls of thirteen to sixteen inclusive are invited to come to the Reading Room for a "Squash" (do you know what that is?) at 5 p.m. on Sunday, November 7th. There will be something to eat, something to sing, something to hear and something to think about.

**ST. NICHOLASTIDE.** This year our Festival falls on the second Sunday in Advent. In view of the special appeal early in November for the Heating Fund, there will be none of the familiar "St. Nicholastide Envelopes" this year. Instead we shall observe the Festival as a time of renewal and dedication, though on the Saturday afternoon there will be a concert arranged by Mr. Michael Howard. To that end, the Vicar would be grateful if all those who are responsible for some branch of the Church's work, or serve on some Committee in connection with it, would come to the Service on the evening of Advent Sunday, November 28th, when he will be speaking more directly to those who are actively serving the Church in some way or who wish to do so.

"Marston News." Apologies for the non-publication of the last month's "Marston News." Any contributions for insertion should reach the Vicarage by the 16th of the month preceding that in which the item is to appear. If you do not receive the "Marston News" or it is delivered wrongly, be sure to write a note to this effect and hand it to the Vicar or to Mr. B. G. Oliver.

**THANK YOU** . . . to the Church Pastoral Aid Society for the Camp to which some of our boys went this last summer . . . to the various people who have made gifts to the Church recently . . . to the Diocese of Oxford for its gift of £30 towards the new Church Heating . . . to those who use the Weekly Offering Envelope Scheme.

**IN THE CHANCEL** you will see a brass Book-rest, given to our Church by Holy Trinity Church, Oxford, which is now being closed, and a wooden Ornament, which was formerly on top of the wooden font which was placed by the north door of our Church and which has recently been given to the Vicar for return to the Church. These will be formally received and dedicated at the 6.30 Service on November 14.

#### FOR YOUR DIARY, NOVEMBER, 1954.

Pin this list up. For further details of Services and Meetings, see 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.

1. M. All Saints' Day.
2. Tu. Marston Parish Council.†
3. W. \*7.45, Young Wives' Group (R.R.) : China Painting.
7. S. **Trinity XXI. REMEMBRANCE DAY.** 8.15, H.C. ; 10.55, M.P. (A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE).†† \*6.30, E.P.††, Youth on Service.
8. M. 8, "Monday Night at Eight" (R.R.).
9. Tu. 2.30, Women's Institute.
10. W. Social Evening (Choir and Bell-ringers).
14. S. **Trinity XXII.** 8.15, H.C. ; 11, M.P. ; \*6.30, E.P. ; \*7.30, H.C.
17. W. \*7.45, Young Wives' Group (R.R.) : Handicrafts.
21. S. **Trinity XXIII (Last).** 8.15, H.C. : 11, M.P. ; \*6.30, E.P., "Husbands and Wives' Service."
22. M. "Monday Night at Eight" (R.R.).
23. Tu. 2.30, Mothers' Union (R.R.) : "Brains Trust."
28. S. **Advent Sunday.** 8.15, H.C. (M.U.) ; 11, M.P. (Scouts and Cubs) ; \*6.30, E.P. (Church Workers).
30. Tu. **St. Andrew's Day.**

#### December.

1. W. \*7.45, Young Wives' Group : "Australian Aborigines."
4. S. Concert (R.R.).
5. S. **Advent II. ST. NICHOLASTIDE WEEK-END.** Watch for details.

**Something to Think About :** "Do what you can when you cannot do what you would."

**A Text to Treasure :** "Casting all your care upon Him : for He careth for you" (I Peter 5 : 7).