

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,

Are you perplexed by present happenings? Who is not? What ought we to be thinking and doing at such a time? In a time of crisis for Himself and His disciples Jesus, knowing that He was going out to be crucified the next day, said "Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me". Does this invite us to ignore present events, or to be callous over the heart-breaking news of war, tyranny and disunity? Emphatically "No!"—we all have our duty in sharing concern and forming public opinion; but it is no contradiction to have at the same time a calm confidence both of heart and mind.

What can we do at this time? I respectfully make these suggestions:

(i) We can seek to have, with God's help, a right understanding of what is going on in the world and when we cannot understand to commit to God in prayer those who have the awful burden of making decisions.

(ii) Whatever we say or think, we ought not to let our convictions cause a division between us and our friends, for our country needs us as united as possible, and those from whom we differ hold their opinions with equal conviction and sincerity.

(iii) We ought both privately in our homes and together in church earnestly to lay our every trouble before God in prayer (read Isaiah xxxvii, verse 14 onwards, and Isaiah xxvi, verses 3 and 4), to confess the many sins and failings of our nation and of the nations, as well as our own personal lack of trust.

(iv) We ought to pray that we and our nation may turn to God and continually plead that this country may with uprightness resolutely do what is right, with courage, regardless of our own interests or expediency, and if necessary ignoring the criticisms of others.

(v) However deeply we too share concern at the various turns in events, let us seek with God's help to dispel dismay, fear and bitterness by passing on a word of help and sure confidence which comes from God: "Let not your heart be troubled". For this confidence springs from a deep trust in the good care of a Heavenly Father.

(vi) As we pray for a right solution to the problems of this world, let us believe that God has help for all who humbly seek His guidance; and that therefore we may confidently look to God for the future and have a lively hope in Him.

(vii) It is of paramount importance that the children entrusted to us should not be left with a sense of rudderless insecurity amid the bewildering welter of talk and argument on the radio and TV, in the papers and in the home: they cannot understand it all, but there is something they can all understand and have: give them a rock of firm faith on which to build and to trust, for that will never fail them in the days ahead. "In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me."

(viii) Let us bear up before God all those upon whom terror, trouble, anxiety, loss of home, or bereavement have fallen; let us especially remember

those known to us far from home in the service of their country; and let us seek strength for ourselves to meet calmly and bravely whatever difficulties there may be in the days ahead, whether the crisis passes quickly or not.

With my prayer and warm wishes,

Your friend and Vicar,

GORDON D. SAVAGE.

TWO IMPORTANT NOTES

I. A Big Headache. Someone said the other day, "The Vicar has a big headache", and by that was meant the fact that the Church urgently needs an additional £200 to complete payment by the end of this year of the account for the first half of the Restoration work. Although the Restoration Fund has progressed wonderfully, it has not kept pace with the additional work which the builders needed to do at this first stage. Of course, it is not really "the Vicar's headache", for it is the responsibility of all the Church and very many people are actively sharing the responsibility. But it is an anxiety, and this £200 will be met by many people making the small contributions which they can make. So will those who read this who have not yet made their contribution, please think about it and do something about it! A Collection Box or envelopes for your weekly contribution will be gladly supplied on request. Apply to the Secretary of the Restoration Fund (Mrs. Carter, Eaglesfield, Jack Straw's Lane) or to Mr. B. G. Oliver (Marston Road Post Office) or the Vicar. Sunday, December 9th, the Sunday nearest to St. Nicholas' Day, has been set aside as A DAY OF PRAYER AND GIFTS.

II. Appointment of Miss M. S. Liles. As from November 1st Miss M. S. Liles is Parish Worker for St. Nicholas Church, and her work will be specially among young people and young families; she will also help in visiting any cases of sickness. Those who have met her have given her a warm welcome, and she will value our prayers and interest as she takes up her work. This appointment has been made possible by some generous grants made specifically for this purpose, as otherwise it would not have been possible for us to appoint her at this time.

Miss Liles (whose name rhymes with "isles") comes from Slough, where she has done similar work with great success. A little previous history may not be out of place: for ten years she was at Impington, working at the Village College, which comes under the Cambridgeshire Education Committee, and she then trained for parish work at Dalton House, Bristol. Whilst at Bristol she took her Inter-Diocesan Certificate for this work, and did much practical work amongst women and in City Youth Clubs. Whilst at Slough her work mainly involved youth organisations and youth leadership, women's meetings and parochial visiting.

She is quickly making friends among the young people of this parish, and her friendship will mean much to them.

Here are two requests:

(i) **Calling All Girls.** We have had no Guides or Campaigners in this parish in recent years, so will all girls who are interested please let Miss Liles know, or come to see her on November 18th after Evening Service? It would also be a help to know of those who have been Guides or Campaigners in the past.

(ii) **Wanted a Room.** Miss Liles will be at the Vicarage for a week or so; but she is needing a suitable room in the newer part of the parish where she might live. Please send any offers to the Vicarage as soon as possible.

SOME SPECIAL DAYS IN NOVEMBER

Remembrance Day (November 11th). "Lest we Forget." This year Remembrance Day falls on the actual anniversary of the 1918 Armistice, November 11th, 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 present, and it seems specially appropriate that our preacher at this Service will be one who not only served in France and Flanders in the First World War but was himself one of the founders of the British Legion Branch in Marston, Professor V. T. Harlow, of Fir Tree House.

At the Evening Service, at 6.30, the preacher will be the Rev. F. S. Cragg, the well-known Rector of St. Aldate's for the ten years from 1933 to 1943, who was at one time with the Church Missionary Society in Palestine.

The Christian Singers (November 18th). There will be great enthusiasm for the return visit of "The Christian Singers" when they come to Church for Evening Prayer on Sunday, November 18th, at 6.30. Their visit on June 10th greatly impressed all who heard them, and several have enquired when they will come again. These young men and women of the University, who were trained into a choir eighteen months ago in order to sing Christian music in local hospitals, come to lead us in the singing of favourite hymns and to sing to us some of their own new songs. Their bright testimony in this way made some people think afresh about the meaning of the Gospel, and our prayer on this return visit is that the singing may speak to many a heart, with just the message which each needs from God.

This is the monthly "Bring a Friend" Service, and afterwards all are invited to meet informally at the Reading Room over tea. Perhaps some of our friends who have come to live in this parish and who have not yet ventured into Church will feel encouraged to slip in on this occasion: a warm welcome awaits them!

Church Pastoral Aid Society. This Society will be having its Annual Meeting in Oxford on Monday evening, November 19th (see notice in porch), and on Sunday morning, November 18th, the Area Secretary, the Rev. R. H. P. King, will be the preacher here at 11 a.m.

Restoration Gifts. In continuance of the list in the July issue, "thank you" to the following whose gifts are gratefully received towards the Restoration Fund: Brasenose College, Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Haynes, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Haynes, Mr. J. L. Nichols (Cheltenham), Mr. J. A. Pye (Messrs. J. A. Pye), Mrs. Cullimore-Allen, Miss Thompson, Mr. Harris, Mr. Francis, Mr. M. A. Savage (St. Peter's Hall), Mr. and Mrs. Branch, Mr. and Mrs. Williams (Antigua and Cowley), Mr. and Mrs. W. D. W. Smith (Buckingham), Mrs. A. C. Carter, Mr. and Mrs. A. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Yale (Stafford), Mr. and Mrs. Constantine, Mrs. I. Baldwin, Mr. England, Dr. and Mrs. Heatley, Mr. H. N. Mortimer (Taunton), Mr. A. G. Mortimer, Mr. and Mrs. Jackman, Mrs. Hart, Jenny Wren, Mrs. C. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis, Miss Brockway, Mr. and Mrs. Gammon, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Tanner, Mr. John Davies, Miss O. Messenger, Mr. and Mrs. Rowcliffe (New South Wales), Mr. Swain, Mr. and Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Standing, Mr. Bernard Haynes (Huntingdon), Mr. and Mrs. Rodgers, Mrs. P. E. and Miss C. King, Misses Broughton (Oxford), Mrs. Whiting, Mr. R. E. Thompson (London), Canon Bellman (York), Dr. and Mrs. Burns Plewes (Toronto), Mr. and Mrs. J.

Collier, Mrs. E. Walker, *Miss Mortimer, Mr. John Carter, Mrs. L. M. Piggott, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Forster (Headington), the Misses Hesketh (Bournemouth), Mr. E. A. and Dr. Radford, Mrs. E. Hunt, Hillside Social Club, Mrs. West, *Mrs. Woozley (Fife), Mr. and Mrs. Cardy, *Rev. G. and Mrs. Savage, Mr. Bartlett (Rose Hill), Messrs. Axtell & Perry, R. Haynes.

*Second contribution.

Christmas Cards. A smart Christmas Card, with an assortment of three views of the Church, is available at sixpence, including purchase tax and an envelope to match. All profits to the Restoration Fund. Please order your cards as soon as possible, as stocks are limited.

"Thank you" for help and gifts in recent weeks: some redecoration has continued at the Reading Room, thanks to the men who have undertaken this; we have now purchased the Rotoscythe for the Churchyard, and help towards this was given by Mr. and Mrs. P. Eadle; the Reading Room has had two gas-stoves given to it, by Mr. and Mrs. B. G. Oliver and by Mr. and Mrs. T. Finch; the Sanctuary Wine is given all the year round by Mr. and Mrs. L. E. H. Hayle. These are just a few of the gifts, of which a list is given from time to time, except in cases when we are specially asked to keep the gift anonymous.

New Chalice. It will be known that St. Nicholas Church has the oldest chalice in use in the country, and that this attracts many visitors from all parts of Britain and beyond.

Two friends of the Church who live in the parish have thoughtfully given a second chalice, in order to relieve some of the constant use of the ancient vessel. This very wonderful gift of a new chalice was made with great care and generosity. It was made specially for this Church and matches the other plate: it is solid silver, hand-made, with richly-chased Celtic ornament, $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. and 7 in. high, complete with case.

Chemist. As there has been no qualified chemist in this parish, able to deal with doctors' prescriptions, we have been asked to draw attention to the fact that there is now a qualified chemist who has been registered for work at 11 Old Marston Road (at Mr. B. G. Oliver's shop, Marston Road Post Office).

Holy Baptism. Valerie Ann Johnson (Sept. 2nd); Peter Raymond Woodward (Sept. 2nd); Valerie Faith Jones (Sept. 16th); Margaret Lynda Scott (Sept. 23rd); Michael and John Standley (Sept. 23rd); Alan Robertson Dickie (Sept. 30th); Adrian John Marvin Leach (Oct. 7th); Linda Denise Neil (Oct. 14th); Sharon Elizabeth Rose Horwood (Oct. 21st); Barry Peter West (Oct. 28th); Lorraine Ann Broster (Oct. 28th).

Home-call. Our sympathy to the relatives of Mrs. Emma Ward, Mr. James C. L. Jones, Mrs. Ellen L. Lawrence.

Wedding Bells. Nicholas Eldred Napier Walker and Elizabeth Hughes (July 28th); Percy Leonard Cotton and Phyllis May Thomas (Sept. 29th); William Smith Hayle and Joan Kathleen Green (Oct. 27th).

A Verse to Treasure: "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (*1 Thess.* v. 18).