

MARSTON NEWS

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

"WHY COMMUNISM WINS"

Is this article by a Communist true?

"The Gospel is a much more powerful weapon for the renewal of Society than is our Marxist philosophy, but all the same it is we who finally beat you. We are only a handful and you Christians are numbered by the million. But if you remember the story of Gideon and his 300 companions, you will understand why I am right.

"We Communists do not play with words. We are realists and seeing that we are determined to achieve our object, we know how to obtain the means. Of our salaries and wages we only keep what is strictly necessary, and we give up the rest for propaganda purposes. To this propaganda we also concentrate all our free time, and a part of our holidays. You, however, only give a little time and hardly any money for the spreading of the Gospel of Christ. How can anyone believe in the supreme value of this Gospel if you do not practise it, if you do not spread it, and if you sacrifice neither time nor money for it?

"Believe me, it is we who will win, for we believe in our Communist message and we are ready to sacrifice everything, even our life, in order that social justice shall triumph. But you people are afraid to soil your hands."

Comment by the Vicar: My dear Friends of Marston, The above article shows clearly what is at the heart of the struggle with Communism. We are not fighting just an alien creed which can be destroyed by force of arms. The challenge of Communism is here in our midst in this country, and I believe that wherever it appears in the world it can be met only by a Creed more living and powerful and relevant than its own. Our Creed is a Person, a Living Saviour, and Communism is on the run only where Christians are knowing and practising their faith in Jesus Christ with no less a zeal than the Communist follows his way of life. May I therefore commend to your careful reading the next two notes.

GORDON D. SAVAGE

Know Your Faith! Have you ever tried to read a book backwards, or perhaps taking a chapter here and there, in no special order? You have only yourself to blame if the book proves to be dull or incomprehensible. Has it occurred to you that you can never get to know the Christian faith unless you tackle it systematically? When he prepares his sermons, the Vicar tries to picture his congregation and their needs, so that he may lead them on step by step. It will be a help to your understanding and not missing vital clues, as well as an aid to the Vicar realistically trying to picture his congregation, if you endeavour to follow a sequence of sermons. From October 11th onwards there will on Sunday mornings be a course of talks on **The Sermon on the Mount**, and from the same Sunday a course in the evenings on **Well-known Hymns and their Message**.

"Why Communism Wins." The article on this page is the answer by a Communist when he was asked for his thoughts on the purchase by the Communists of a Church building in New York which Christians said that they could no longer afford to keep. Everyone would rush to the aid of St. Nicholas Church if it was decided to close it, or even if it was decided to

hold only one service a Sunday. But have you ever thought of the needless anxiety caused to those responsible for the Church's finances simply because they are not in a position to forecast at all accurately what the income of the Church will be? Most business-like people will agree that this is wrong and that the Church's income ought not to fluctuate according to the way in which the weather, health, work, holidays and, inter alia, the sudden arrival of friends may affect churchgoing. The Vicar therefore appeals to all men and women of goodwill, and particularly those who have ever had occasion to be thankful for the Church's ministrations, to join the Free Will Offering Scheme; what you give is known only to the Vicar, and you can give **any sum** from 6d. upwards per week, per month, per quarter or per annum, either in addition to or instead of the usual collection. It will be the offer to give in this way, rather than the sum involved, which will encourage the church. Full details on request. You will find a blessing and satisfaction in planned and regular giving, and remember that what you give helps not only St. Nicholas, but the whole Church at home and overseas, in its manifold activities, which it is pledged to support.

Happy Birthdays! (Please tell the Vicar of errors or omissions and of dates for future months. He is glad to include the name of **any** child living in the parish). Oct. 2nd, Rosemary Taylor, Ravina McFadden and Susan Codling; 3rd, Valerie Weaving, Roberta Osborne; 6th, Jennifer Haynes, Hazel Ward; 7th, June Clark; 10th, Joseph Simmonds; 11th, Lesley Waugh; 12th, Katherine Bleay; 15th, Andrew Smith; 16th, Sylvia Jones, Angela Moores, Jill Sutton; 17th, Lesile Slattery; 18th, Lawrence Howard; 20th, Yvonne Hunt; 21st, Daniel Lynn; 22nd, Moira Thomas; 23rd, Rodney Pickering; 24th, Alan Harris, Graham Lee; 25th, Michael Matcham, Jean Edmunds; 26th, Monica Barratt; 28th, Terence Boodley, David Deadman, David Scarrott; 29th, David Kewen; 30th, Valerie Nobes; 31st, Joy Burrows.

"Conkers." Thank you to the 90 children who kindly agreed to distribute equally between the Sunday School scholars the "conkers" from the horse-chestnut tree at the Vicarage.

Picture Post-cards. And thank-you to the senders of the 35 holiday post-cards to the Vicarage. Those that are suitable will now go into a scrap-album used for visits to children sick in hospital.

Parish Registers. Welcome to those BAPTISED: Christopher Edward George Martin, 6th Sept.; Winston Percival Williams and Barry John Turton, 13th Sept.; Cherry Smith, 20th Sept. Congratulations to those MARRIED: Kenneth Woodward and Alice Wheeler, 19th Sept.; John Dobson and Marjorie Gurden, 3rd Oct. Rest and Peace to the BURIED: Allan Laidlaw, 1st Sept.

Calling All Women! Last month we called all children to the Sunday School, and we have rejoiced in the pleasure which they have found in accepting the invitation.

This month we call all Women to the **Women's Open Meeting**, at the Reading Room on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.45 p.m. This meeting is in addition to the Mothers' Union, on the fourth Tuesday at 2.30, and the Young Wives' Group, on the third Wednesday at 7.45, and it is hoped that through this new meeting the Church may give the help it should to all women of all ages, whether married or otherwise. All women in the parish are invited to ask the Vicar to supply, without obligation, the "Programme of Meetings for Women," which lists the meetings for the whole winter on a single card.

Scripture Union. A Scripture Union Rally will be held in the Reading Room on Wed., Nov. 4th, from 6.30 to 7.30. Although this is primarily for children, adults are also invited. A film will be shown. JEAN MACHON (15 Rippington Drive) and CAROL KING (100 Oxford Road) have taken on the Secretaryship of the S.U.

Old Scouts' Guild. All former Scouts and any others interested are invited to obtain further particulars from Mr. D. B. James, 15 Nicholas Ave.

Cost of "Marston News." Thank you to the following who have also contributed towards the cost: Dr. and Mrs. Heatley, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Buckett and Mrs. Parsons, Mrs. Green and Miss A. Haynes. Also to others who have given to collectors or have placed money in the receptacle at Mr. Oliver's or at Church. People have asked how much they ought to give: if everyone who received it contributed 3d. a copy, the production would pay for itself and there would be a small balance in hand for the use of the Church. Because of the popular demand for it, "The St. Nicholas Guide to Marston" has been reprinted and delivered to every house in the parish. Please note (on the back page) that Mr. Mettem's correct address is now: 61 Deibush Avenue, Sandhills. Keep the Guide by you for reference, and keep it up to date by noting on it corrections from time to time printed in the "Marston News."

Congratulations to the gold-star winners at the Oxfordshire Women's Institutes' Produce Show, those from Marston being listed in the "Oxford Mail" as Mrs. Jennings (three old-stars), Mrs. Kerwood and Mrs. Carter. Marston also carried off a number of other awards. And congratulations also to Mrs. Ricketts for her successes at Thame.

*** **The Rev. J. H. Mortimer.** Our affectionate and hearty Christian welcome awaits Mr. Mortimer on his return to Marston for the week-end of Oct. 11th. On the Saturday there will be a short service in Church at 6 p.m., when Mr. Mortimer will unveil the Tablet commemorating the Record Peal of Bells in 1948. Mr. Mortimer will be at the Services on Sunday.

Pathfinders. The Bible Classes which meet at the Vicarage on Sunday afternoons will shortly take a different form, for they have been invited to become part of a youth movement which links up similar Church of England groups in various parishes throughout the land. "Pathfinders" have a badge of their own, and our Bible Classes members will welcome the privilege of being members. The Vicar will explain and give full details at a meeting at the Vicarage at 2.30 p.m. on Sunday 18th October. Boys and Girls between the ages of 11 and 16 are invited to come and hear the movement. Incidentally (but not connected with "Pathfinders") the Vicar has received a tentative invitation to take about a dozen boys and a dozen girls between these ages to Camps in Surrey next August at a very nominal charge.

Church Working-Party. Mrs. Savage is about to lead a Church Sewing-Party and Working-Party on Thursday afternoons. The proceeds of the work will be divided equally between the work here and the missionary work of the Church. In order to collect funds for the purchase of material, a small Jumble Sale will be held in the Reading Room on **Saturday, Oct. 17th, at 2 p.m.**

S.O.S.! How many of us have cried out in distress of body and mind to God and to our fellow-men when we have been ill or when dear ones have been ill; and how few of us return to give thanks, or pause to think of what we owe to the medical services. On **Sunday, 18th October**, the feast of St. Luke the Physician, we have an opportunity of doing this. All who have ever benefited in any way from the attention of doctors, surgeons, nurses, ambulance-men, chemists or the Red Cross are specially invited to come to the Sunday evening service of Oct. 18th, which will be attended by representatives of the medical services in the district, and at which Dr. David F. Mullins, of the Radcliffe Infirmary, will speak. This service will provide us with an opportunity both of expressing our appreciation to those who serve us so faithfully and also of humbly giving God thanks for medical skill and for our health.

Answer to Puzzle: Prov. 30 of Proverbs Chapter 30

FOR YOUR DIARY, OCTOBER, 1953.

Pin this list up. For further details of regular Church Services Meetings, see "The St. Nicholas Guide to Marston" and the Notice Board "R.R." denotes "Reading Room."

4. S. **Trinity XVIII.**
 6. Tu. 8, Parish Council.
 7. W. *7.45, Women's Open Meeting (R.R.). Miss Jenner: "Does Crime, like Charity, begin at Home?" †
 10. S. *6, The Rev. J. H. Mortimer to unveil Peal Board in Church. †
 11. S. **Trinity XIX.** 8.15, Holy Communion; 11, Morning Prayer and Litany; *2.30, Children's Church; *6.30, Evening Prayer; *7.30, Holy Communion.
 12. M. *8, "Monday Night at Eight" re-commences (2nd and 4th Mondays of month), Social Evening and Competition (R.R.).
 13. Tu. *6.30, Women's Institute.
 - 14 to 16. Canterbury Convocation, in London.
 14. W. 2.30, Islip Ruri-Decanal Conference (St. Mary's Old Library).
 17. S. 2, Jumble Sale for Church Working-Party (R.R.) †
 - 18.S. **St. Luke's Day, Trinity XX.** 8.15, Holy Communion; 11, Morning Prayer; *2.30, Children's Church; *2.30, Pathfinders † (Vicarage); *6.30, **Evening Prayer for Hospital Sunday** ("Bring a Friend" Service, and at R.R. afterwards), attended by some representatives of local medical services. Dr. David F. Mullins (Radcliffe Infirmary) will speak. †
 21. W. *7.45, Young Wives' Group (Alan Court). Mrs. Nicholas: "Enterprise in Furnishing."
 22. Th. *7.45, Parochial Church Council (R.R.).
 25. S. **Trinity XXI. EDUCATION SUNDAY.** 8.15, H.C. (M.U. Corporate); 11, Morning Prayer (Scouts and Cubs); *2.30, Children's Church; *6.30, Evening Prayer.
 26. M. *8, "Monday Night at Eight." An Oxford Preservation Trust Meeting; address by Mr. W. A. Pantin, F.B.A.: "Old Buildings of Oxford" (with lantern slides).
 27. Tu. *2.30, Mothers' Union (Alan Court). Rev. C. Tucker: "How we got our Bible."
 28. W. **St. Simon and St. Jude.** *11.30, Holy Communion.
- NOV.
1. S. **All Saints' Day, Trinity XXII.** 8.15, H.C.; 11, M.P.; 12, H.C.; *2.30, Family Service; *6.30, E.P. ("Youth on Service").
 2. M. Marston Primary School half-term.
 4. W. Oxford Diocesan Conference (Sheldonian Theatre). *6.30 to 7.30, Scripture Union Rally (R.R.). *7.45, Women's Open Meeting (R.R.). Mrs. Stallworthy: "Does Christian Home Life Matter?" †
 8. S. **Trinity XXIII. REMEMBRANCE DAY.**
 * Bus connects with the beginning and/or end of this item.
 † For further details see the two inside pages.
- This Month's Puzzle:** In which chapter of the Bible do we read of Ants, Conies, Locusts and Spiders? (Answer at foot of previous page).
- This Month's Laugh:** Another printers' error, "Next Sunday is "BRING A FIEND Sunday"! (Well, bring one if you can!).
- This Month's Thought:** The measure of what you can do for the world is the measure of what you let God do with you yourself.
- A Text to Treasure:** "Not by works of righteousness which we have done but according to His mercy He saved us"—see Titus 3, 5.