

# MARSTON NEWS

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

## THE CHURCH CLOCK

When the Church Clock is mentioned in the village, a groan may sometimes be heard — perhaps more than one. And understandably so, for this old clock has given much trouble ever since it was installed. But it is held in high honour, because of the donor, the Rev. J. H. Mortimer, who gave it when he left the Parish after forty-six years as Vicar. The Church has been determined, for the honour of the village, to bring the clock out of disrepute; but until recently it has not been possible to take any effective steps.

For various reasons the clock has given trouble. First there were the troubles of its restorer, Mr. C. A. L. Lewis, who eventually left the district. Then the clock stopped through weather conditions one winter. Later it stopped again when the north dial was made to work. And last of all, more serious trouble was found when flaking stone and loose stone hindered the transmission of drive. About a year ago it was decided to stop the hands rather than have them showing the correct time only spasmodically. Since then the clock has been wound every day, in order to keep the mechanism in working condition, and the hours have been sounded, but it was decided to await the restoration of the tower before re-connecting the hands to the clock.

In the meantime, it has been possible for the Church to have the very best advice possible. The clock has recently been inspected in detail by Dr. C. F. C. Beeson, the Chairman of the Antiquarian Horological Society. He has confirmed that the clock itself is in good working order, and that it has been properly cared for since its installation in this Tower. He has also confirmed Mr. Gammon's diagnosis of the chief trouble, and this now has the attention of the builders. All the transmission of drive is also being thoroughly checked over by someone who has had experience of similar ancient clocks in Church Towers. However, it seems doubtful whether the North Dial could ever be run off the existing mechanism, and on the advice of Dr. Beeson, confirmed by others who have looked at the clock, the Vicar and Churchwardens have decided to give up any thought of the North Dial being made to work during the next five years or so, if then. And, in view of the rust on the dial and hands, the clock face on the north side of the Tower is being removed, with the consent of the donor.

In the meantime the dial and hands on the south side are also being removed, so that the rust may be effectively removed, and the face re-coated. This will also enable the builders to attend to the stonework behind the clock-face.

So it is reasonably hoped that by the end of September not only will the Tower be restored, but the clock within it will be showing that it works, and that its face will be shining brightly as it does so!

**Two Prayers** from a Mission School in Southern Sudan and written by the children:

Prayer by a Boy: "Lord, we are like motor trucks. We take the wrong road, we bump into each other, we break down inside. Be Thou our driver, and we shall go along the right way".

Prayer by a Girl: "O Thou Great Cleanser, wash me, as I wash my clothes and make me clean right through".

**What is a Harvest Supper?** You won't know what a Marston Harvest Supper is like until you come to our first, on Friday evening, October 5th., at the Reading Room, at 7.45 for 8 o'clock. This will be a sit-down meal of three courses, and the cost will be only 3/6, one shilling of which will go to the Restoration Fund. The Supper will provide opportunity of "getting together" and meeting one another informally. ALL friends of St. Nicholas Church are invited to come, but only the first fifty or so applicants will be able to attend, for the room is limited. Get your tickets from Mrs. Tims, of 360 Cowley Road (Tel. Oxford 2910), who is the Secretary of the Harvest Supper, or from Mr. Oliver (Marston Road P.O.), or the Vicar. The Harvest Services in Church are on Sunday, October 7th.

#### RESTORATION OF THE CHURCH

The first and most urgent part of the Restoration will have been completed by the time that this issue of the "Marston News" appears. The new splendour of our ancient tower is now on view for all to see. And how greatly admired it has been by so many residents and visitors!

The sight of this Restored Tower will encourage us in future months to plan for the completion of the work at its second stage, which will deal with the rest of the stonework all over the exterior of the Church. Although this is a much larger surface, the work will be somewhat easier, for the stonework is not, on the whole, so badly deteriorated as on the Tower. It is hoped to commence this second stage next Spring, as soon as the frosts have finished.

And the Funds to pay for all this? Some detailed figures will be in the next issue of the "Marston News", but some round figures may be given now. It is expected that the total cost of restoring the tower, including some urgent work inside the belfry, together with attention to the two gables at the west end of the chancel, will be in the region of £1,800. Towards this a total of £1,170 has now been raised. So another £600 or so is urgently needed to enable us to pay for the work so far done. A first instalment of the estimated £1,700 was paid this month, and the account for the remainder is likely to be received during the Autumn.

#### MARSTON MARKET

This weekly effort, on Saturday mornings, at the Reading Room, from 10.15 to 11.0, wet or fine, has continued throughout the summer, with continuing success in its proceeds for the Restoration Fund. The following are the figures for the Saturdays of August (two of which were really wet):

August 4:	£4	0s.	3d.	
August 11:	£2	8s.	4d.	
August 18:	£3	10s.	1d.	
August 25:	£4	1s.	0d.	Total: £13 19s. 8d.

The total raised in four months by the Marston Market is £70 6s. 6d. Congratulations and thank you, both to the organisers and helpers Saturday by Saturday, as well as to the many satisfied customers who return week after week. It has been encouraging to note the use which our Caravan residents and others with small gardens have made of the Market.

#### OTHER RESTORATION EFFORTS:

The Snowball Tea at Mr. and Mrs. Wren's house raised £4 6s. 0d. There was £3 6s. 0d. in the Model Church after Vicarage "At Homes".

**Thank You** for the Bibles and Prayer Books "Presented to St. Nicholas Church, Marston, Oxford", recently, with these inscriptions on the book-plates: "by Mrs. A. V. BERRY to mark the safe arrival of her granddaughter, Jane Mary Berry, on 13 July, 1956" (and another from Jane's parents); "by Dennis and Brenda TIMMS to mark the Baptism of Keith on Easter Day 1956"; "by James and Zena MEAD to mark the Baptism of

## THE CHURCH FETE

The net amount banked in the Restoration Fund after the Fete was £258 19s. 6d. This is a great credit and reward to all those who so generously supported the Fête by their work and presence and gifts. They will recognise their own particular contributions in the following figures of Income:

STALLS:	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Restoration ... ..	3	11	6			
Gifts ... ..	30	11	8			
White Elephant ... ..	44	2	8			
Garden Produce ... ..	14	10	0			
Home-made Cakes ... ..	12	12	9			
Teas ... ..	15	0	0			
Soft Drinks ... ..	4	16	0			
Ices ... ..	8	7	3			
Bottles ... ..	5	1	0			
Moulded Toys ... ..	5	14	6			
Household ... ..	10	5	1			
				154	12	5
<b>ENTERTAINMENTS:</b>						
Model Trains ... ..	3	14	0			
Bagatelle ... ..	16	9				
Aunt Sally ... ..	3	0	0			
Darts ... ..	2	13	6			
Skittles ... ..	5	17	9			
Hidden Treasures ... ..	4	8	6			
Naming the Doll ... ..	1	8	0			
Treasure Trove ... ..	1	5	0			
Hoop-la ... ..	5	5	9			
Weight of Cake ... ..	2	0	6			
Quoits ... ..	1	10	0			
Shooting the Clown ... ..	1	2	6			
Mystery Table ... ..	15	0				
Lighting Candles ... ..	12	9				
Balls into Jars ... ..	19	0				
Ringing Bell and Records ... ..	1	10	6			
Pony and Donkey Rides ... ..	5	16	0			
Bran Tub ... ..	7	1	9			
Weight of Doll ... ..	1	6	0			
Pennies in Bucket ... ..	13	4				
Guessing Weight of the Vicar ... ..	15	0				
Streamers ... ..	11	9				
Bubbler ... ..	1	17	6			
Auction ... ..	9	3				
Fancy Dress ... ..	6	6				
				55	16	7
<b>OTHER ITEMS:</b>						
Sale of Programmes ... ..	13	17	9			
Gate Money ... ..	9	16	6			
Donations ... ..	24	16	6			
Donations for Prizes ... ..	6	5	0			
Donations (Voucher Prizes) ... ..	3	12	6			
Advertisements ... ..	1	10	0			
Whit-Monday Elevenes ... ..	13	15	8			
				73	13	11
				Total Income: £284 2 11		

(Compared with £260 in 1955)

[P.T.O.]

The Expenses were, as usual, remarkably slight, owing to the ingenuity and practical help of many. They were:

	£	s.	d.
Printing ... ..	5	13	0
Ice Creams, etc. ... ..	6	18	1 <sup>st</sup>
Soft Drinks ... ..	2	11	3
Loan of Tables (Hillside) ... ..		10	0
Third Party Insurance ... ..	1	10	0
Prizes ... ..	6	19	2
Sundry (Stationery, Stamps, etc.) ... ..	1	1	1
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Total:	£25	3	5

William on 12 August, 1956"; "in thanksgiving for the recovery of Mrs. Evelyn ROUSE, August, 1956". These will be dedicated at 6.30 p.m. on September 16th.

Our grateful thanks also to Mr. JACK WALTON, of 11 Mortimer Drive, who is a skilled carpenter, for the pleasing and useful Vestry Table which he made and presented. To Mr. A. E. KING, of 6 Cherwell Caravan Park, for the Restoration Notice Board outside the Church and the Marston Market Notice Board outside the Reading Room. To Mr. JOHN SPARROWAWK and Mr. TRYGVE KRONHOLM for clearing the Church gutters and drainpipes. To Mr. A. R. HILL for preparing the plan of the Churchyard. To Mr. V. HAYNES for help at the Reading Room and Churchyard, and to the men who have helped with the Churchyard under the leadership of Dr. C. CARTER. To Mr. F. W. CATTERMOLE for repairing Prayer Books and Hassocks.

**Churchyard.** The help of some men in the Churchyard will be needed this Autumn, if only for one or two hours. Those interested are invited to meet Dr. Carter and the Vicar in the Churchyard on **Saturday, Sept. 22nd, at 6.30 p.m.**, when work needing to be done will be discussed. If you cannot be present and would like to join this working-party at a later date, please mention this to either Dr. Carter or the Vicar.

**Some of the Vicar's Outside Engagements**, for your prayers and thought: September 10th to 14th, Delegate at an Anglican/French-Speaking Theological Conference at Lambeth Palace; September 20th, Speak at St. Clement's Church; September 24th to 26th, "Friends of Reunion" (Oxford Conference); September 30th, Preach at Horspath Harvest Service, 6 p.m. And several committees inside the Parish and in Oxford!

**Home-Call.** Our sympathy to the relatives of Arthur Sims Broughton (July 31) and Donald Radburn (July 19), who have recently been buried in this Parish, and of Mrs. E. M. Salter, Mrs. Holt senior, Mrs. Sparrowawk senior, and Mr. Ware.

**Vicarage "At Homes"**. Those who missed the At Homes in July are invited to come on Friday, Sept. 28, 3.30 to 5 p.m., or 8 to 9.30 p.m.

**Around Us.** We shall miss the Rev. CECIL MARKBY, of Highfield, a good friend of Marston, who bore a brave witness in sickness and was called to Higher Service on July 20. Our new neighbour, the Rev. D. I. T. EASTMAN, Vicar of Old Headington, will come to us for the opening Service of the Mothers' Union this month. The Rev. K. R. MARTIN (to St. Michael's, Summertown) and the Rev. L. G. JANES (to St. Barnabas) are to be instituted on Sept. 14 and 18 respectively. Watch the progress on the building of St. Mary's, Barton and Sandhills, where the first sod was cut on July 25; a white cross can be seen marking the site close to the Headington Roundabout. Watch this month for announcements about the Girls' Friendly Society Meeting and Service, Sept. 22, and the Church Missionary Society on Sept. 26. Deep regret at our loss is tinged with delight that the Rt. Rev. KENNETH RICHES, Bishop of Dorchester, our Archdeacon, is to become Bishop of Lincoln: we at Old Marston will not forget his interest and friendship in many ways, and we shall remember him in our prayers.

**Holy Baptism.** Carolyn Jane Quarterman (June 24); Nicholas John Ray (June 24); James David Willington Smith (June 24); Lynda Ann Brandon (July 1); Jacqueline Anne Price (July 1); Nigel John Teasdale (July 8); Susan Elizabeth Cottrell (July 22); Martin Henry Parsons (July 22); Michael Dirk and Wayne Lindsay Skelcher (Aug. 5); Leslie James Claud Hall (adult, Aug. 5); Adrian and Marilyn Stansfield (Aug. 5); William Humphries Mead (Aug. 12); Jane Mary Berry (Aug. 19); Nicholas Wyndham Hill (Aug. 19);

Philip Noel Tovey (Aug. 26); Christine Jane Bradley (Aug. 26). The Christening Cards for the above will be on the Font at the "Bring a Friend" Sunday evening service, on Sept. 16, at 6.30.

**Operation Firm Faith.** The Councils of the Church of England have launched a campaign, about which we shall shortly have a letter from the Bishop of Oxford. In the meantime, think of these two facts on which it is felt a new emphasis needs to be laid through this campaign:

(a) that children's worship and instruction must be considered in the setting of their family life and worship;

(b) that children belong to the family of the Church and are not merely members of a Sunday School or weekday organisation, so the parish must make all Church members aware of the rightful place of children in the whole life of the Church.

**A Family Prayer in All Circumstances:** Almighty and everlasting God, who are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire, or deserve; Pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy; forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

**A Thought:** Help someone worse off than yourself, and you will find that you are better off than you thought. True?

**Fit for Love.** "When I was going out to Tanganyika", said Bishop Chambers, speaking in Sydney, "they got the doctors to look at me. I managed to get passed; they certified on my documents that I was 'able to live in the tropics'."

"My wife, who is an exceptional woman, did much better. She flew through her medical examination. Her papers came back endorsed 'fit to love in the tropics'."

**A Verse to Treasure:** "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost" (Romans xv, 13).

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#### SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Every Sunday: 8.15, Holy Communion. 11.0, Morning Prayer.  
6.30, Evening Prayer.

- Sept. 9. Sunday School and Kindergarten recommence, at 3 p.m., in Church.
- Sept. 16. 6.30 p.m. "BRING A FRIEND" SERVICE. Visit of Chaplain G. E. Hoop (U.S.A.A.F., Brize Norton).
- Sept. 19. 7.45 p.m. Young Wives' Group Social at Reading Room. All young wives of the Parish are invited.
- Sept. 25. 2.45 p.m. Opening Service of the Mothers' Union in Church. Rev. D. I. T. Eastman.
- Sept. 28. Vicarage "At Home".
- Oct. 5 & 7. Harvest Supper and Harvest Thanksgiving Service.
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