

# MARSTON NEWS

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

## A LETTER FROM THE VICAR

My dear Friends,

The letter this time has a very personal note, for through it I wish to take the opportunity on behalf of my wife and myself to thank you all for the very warm-hearted and generous tokens of your affection and good wishes conveyed in various ways and on various occasions in recent weeks, from the County School, the caravan Residents' Association, the Mothers' Union, the Young Wives' Group, to name only a few, as well as the main Presentation from the Parish at the Restoration Fete on July 6th. The Album, beautifully inscribed and bound by our own Church Officers, is a special source of pleasure, and we hope many of you will come to see in Whitchurch Vicarage the furniture which your gift will enable us to buy.

We for our part recall that there is much which we ought to have done, or done better, or had yet hoped to do. What we have done has been our privilege and joy, and in the doing of it we have become further indebted to you because of what you have taught us, and because of the way in which your love and support have encouraged us. If, as I believe is so, we have been the link in the chain to bring some precious souls to the feet of the Saviour and into the fellowship of His Church, that is the greatest reward any Vicar can have. Everything else—and our blessings as a Church are many—is secondary to that.

I know that you will soon take to your hearts my successor, the REVEREND L. V. WRIGHT, who is to be instituted on Thursday evening, October 31st, the eve of All Saints' Day. I do rejoice with you that he felt led to accept the Bishop of Oxford's invitation to become my successor, for he shares the vision of the work in Marston, and I have no doubt that in the days to come there will be a great advance in the Church life here under his leadership. He is married; after National Service he studied at Cambridge, and has served curacies at Holy Trinity, Aldershot, and Holy Trinity, Cambridge.

My own Institution at Whitchurch, Aylesbury, will be at 3 o'clock on Saturday, October 5th, and I need scarcely say that any from Marston who can come will be very welcome.

God bless you all!

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

GORDON D. SAVAGE.

## WHAT IS THE CHURCHING OF WOMEN?

This is a short service in the Prayer Book designed as a thanksgiving after the safe arrival of a Baby. It is a happy fact that in our parish a number of Mothers are coming with their Husbands, sometimes with baby and any other members of the family, after a new arrival, to thank God in this special way in His House for His gift and blessing. Among the Prayer Books in the rack will be noticed some that have been given at a Churching "to mark the safe arrival of . . . . . on . . . . ." Don't ignore this lovely little Service just because some people have used it superstitiously in the past. Have a talk with the Vicar or Miss Liles about it!

## RESTORATION OF THE CHURCH

The work of restoring the exterior stonework of the Church and Tower according to the specification previously printed in the "Marston News" was completed in July this year. We set ourselves this work last year on an estimated cost of £2,500, expecting to spread it over 3 years. The major portion of the work was done and paid for last year. This year's bill has not yet been received, but we expect it to be about £800. Towards this over £672 has so far been collected this year, leaving the sum of £128 still to be found. If this sum has not been received before the Vicar's last Sunday, September 29th, it will be the object of special collections on that day at his request. Thus the work will have been done and paid for in 18 months instead of 3 years.

But the task of maintaining an ancient building is a continuing one, and in future there will be a survey and Report on the Church by an approved Architect every five years. In undertaking this major work of Restoration in 1956-57, we tested all reports by a "15 year gauge". Any part of the exterior stonework unlikely to need attention for the next 15 years or so was left until the next Restoration, and similarly any item likely to need attention during that period we included in the schedule for the present Restoration. As it happens, during the course of closer inspection, the Schedule needed some modification, and now at the close of this stage there are three further items reported as needing early attention. An estimate for these is being obtained. The cost is likely to be less than £150; but full details will be given in the next issue. In the same issue a list will be given of all contributions received since the July issue of the "Marston News". The audited accounts of the Restoration Fete are enclosed: thank-you to all who helped!

### ARE YOU A CHURCH MEMBER OR NOT?

As there is sometimes some doubt in people's minds as to what constitutes active membership of the Church of England, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York issued the following Short Guide to the Duties of Church Membership. Can YOU place seven ticks against the seven Christian privileges which are named below? :—

"All baptized and confirmed members of the Church must play their full part in its life and witness. That you may fulfil this duty, we call upon you:

- To follow the example of Christ in home and daily life, and to bear personal witness to Him.
- To be regular in private prayer day by day.
- To read the Bible carefully.
- To come to Church every Sunday.
- To receive the Holy Communion faithfully and regularly.
- To give personal service to Church, neighbours, and community.
- To give money for the work of parish and diocese and for the work of the Church at home and overseas."

### MARSTON MARKET

Congratulations and thanks to the noble band of ladies and their men-folk who week by week have arranged and staffed the Saturday morning "Marston Market" in aid of the Restoration Fund. Most Saturdays have seen a brisk one hour of trade when fruit, vegetables, seedlings, cakes and flowers have changed hands, with the result that in the first thirteen weeks £62/1/0 has been collected thus: 4th May £7/12/1; 11th May £4/3/0; 18th May £5/19/0; 25th May £4/7/0; 1st June £5/0/0; 8th June £6/5/9; 15th June £3/3/6; 22nd June £3/17/6; 29th June £3/6/8; 13th July £3/18/0; 20th July £3/17/6; 27th July £5/5/9; 3rd August £5/5/3.

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BALANCE SHEET OF MARSTON CHURCH

	INCOME	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Sale of Programmes	...	12	1	3			
Donations (in cash)	...	18	14	10			
Donations (for Prizes)	...	4	2	6			
Donations (Vouchers for Prizes)	...	1	1	0			
Whit-Monday "Elevenses"	...	13	19	2			
Advertisements	...	1	15	0			
Gate Money	...	10	10	4			
						62	4 1
<b>STALLS:</b>							
Restoration	...	2	14	1			
Gift	...	28	19	1			
White Elephant	...	35	3	10			
Garden Produce	...	16	11	6			
Household	...	10	2	0			
Home-made Cakes	...	9	9	4			
Teas	...	10	12	6			
Soft Drinks	...	11	11	0			
Ices	...	15	3	9			
Bottle	...	5	0	0			
Moulded Toys	...	4	8	0			
						149	15 1
<b>ENTERTAINMENTS:</b>							
Bagatelle	...	18	6				
Aunt Sally	...	3	10	6			
Darts	...	4	15	0			
Skittles (Adults)	...	3	18	0			
Skittles (Children)	...	3	1	6			
Treasure Board	...	3	8	0			
Name of Doll	...	1	15	3			
Treasure Trove	...	1	5	0			
Hoop-la	...	4	12	3			
Weight of Cake	...	1	8	6			
Shooting the Clown	...	15	6				
Mystery Table	...	1	2	0			
Lighting Candles	...	14	9				
Pony Rides	...	2	8	0			
Bran Tub	...	6	8	2			
Pennies in Bucket	...	10	0				
Puzzle Corner	...	2	6	0			
Bubbler	...	2	1	9			
Roundabout	...	17	2				
Model Railway	...	10	3				
Beans in Jar	...	5	11	0			
						51	17 1
Baby Show	...	13	0				
Fancy Dress	...	14	6				
						1	7 6
						<u>£265</u>	<u>3 9</u>

RESTORATION FETE, JULY 6th, 1957

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
EXPENDITURE						
Insurance	...	...	...	1	15	0
Printing, etc.	...	...	...	5	5	6
Ice Creams	...	...	...	12	1	10
Soft Drinks—L. E. H. Hayle	...	...	...	1	8	0
Soft Drinks—A. Matthews	...	...	...	4	18	3
Darts (2 sets)	...	...	...		13	0
Advertisement (part)	...	...	...		12	6
Petrol for Motor Scythe	...	...	...		4	11
Oliver, B. G. Ltd. (sundry items for Hoop-la, etc.)	...	...	...	2	0	0
PRIZES:						
Treasure Board	...	...	...	10	0	
Treasure Trove	...	...	...	5	0	
Skittles (Adults)—2 Fowls	...	...	...	1	5	0
Skittles (Children)—only one prize claimed	...	...	...	5	0	
Darts	...	...	...	10	0	
Bagatelle	...	...	...	5	0	
Aunt Sally (Vouchers)	...	...	...	1	1	0
Lighting Candles	...	...	...		5	0
Fancy Dress	...	...	...	2	6	0
Hoop-la (Voucher)	...	...	...	10	6	
				7 2 6		
SUNDRY ITEMS (Stamps, Stationery, etc.)	...	...	...		18	8
				37 0 2		
PAID INTO RESTORATION FUND	...	...	...	228	3	7

£265 3 9

F. W. CATTERMOLE, *Treasurer.*

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**Special Notice for Girls.** On Friday, September 20th, at 5.30 p.m., in the Reading Room, a JUNIOR PATHFINDERS CLUB will be started. All girls between the ages of 7 years and 11 years will be welcome.

Also the same evening, at 7.30 p.m., at the Reading Room, a PATHFINDER CLUB for girls of 12 years and upwards will be started.

If you have any suggestions please turn up the first evening, when details will be discussed. There will be a small weekly subscription for both clubs.

"THE PATHFINDERS" will be run for those young people who endeavour to be regular members of our Church, Sunday School or Bible Class.

**Whitsun Farthings.** David Clarke and Carolyn Oliver represented St. Nicholas Church at the Whitsun Farthings Service in the Cathedral on Whit-Monday, when a cheque for £2/8/5 was handed by them to the Bishop of Oxford. The following collected for the Whitsun Farthings effort this year: A. Vernede, R. and L. Maund, Miss Griffin, K. Bleay, A. Weaver, J. Swain, Pauline Jones, Anonymous, Anonymous, D. Jones, and C. Gratton. This sum collected by the children is counted as a contribution by St. Nicholas Church towards its Quota for 1957. Owing to a clerical error at the Diocesan Office, the contribution by St. Nicholas Church in 1956 was included in the printed list in the contribution made by St. Michael and All Angels, New Marston, and not recorded separately under our own name.

**Old Marston Cricket Club.** Your help is needed for the support of our local Cricket Club, either as a player or as a supporter! The village recreation ground is now much too crowded for match cricket to be played on it and so the Club has been forced to take over Magdalen College Cricket Ground. This is a considerable expense, and this coupled with the loss of "local" revenue from games formerly played on the village ground, makes the financial status of the Club very insecure. The playing membership is increasing but it is difficult for the younger members to pay their full share of the running costs of the Club and the Club looks to its Patrons and other folk interested in providing cricket for the young men of the Parish, to help in keeping the Club going. The Secretary of the Club is Mr. R. D. Skates, 31 Mill Lane, Old Marston, who will be glad to give further details.

**Bible Quiz.** Anyone may enter the Quiz, even though you may not have previously sent in your answers. Please send your answers to the Vicarage by September 15th. A prize will be awarded in each age-group for the most accurate answers.

PART A (twelve years and under):

1. Who was willing to sacrifice his only son? (*Genesis* Ch. 22).
2. Who brought the children of Israel into Egypt? (*Genesis* Ch. 46).
3. Who brought the children of Israel out of Egypt? (*Exodus* Ch. 12, v. 37 - 51).
4. Name four parables recorded in *St. Matthew* Ch. 13.
5. Who were the first four disciples to be called?

PART B. (over twelve years):

1. What was the name of David's dearest friend? (1 *Samuel* 20).
2. What is meant by "faith"?
3. What happened in the Garden of Gethsemane?
4. Who said "Lord, if it be Thou, bid me come to Thee on the water"?
5. Which disciple betrayed Jesus?

## SOME DATES FOR SEPTEMBER, 1957

Every Sunday: Holy Communion at 8.15; Morning Prayer at 11; Evening Prayer at 6.30. Any additional Services noted below.

- 1 Sun. 11 *Trinity*. 12: Holy Communion.  
3 Tues. 2.45: Pram Service (Vicar's farewell).
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- 8 Sun. 12 *Trinity*. 12: Holy Communion. 3: Sunday School recommences.  
10 Tues. 6.45: W.I.
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- 15 Sun. 13 *Trinity*. 6.30: "Bring a Friend" Sunday Evening Service, followed by tea at the Reading Room. Dedication of Verger's Staff.  
18, 20 and 21. *Ember Days*.  
20 Fri. 5.30 and 7.30: Pathfinder Clubs (see note herein).  
21 Sat. *St. Matthew's Day*.
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- 22 Sun. 14 *Trinity*.  
23 Mon. 2.45: M.U. Service and Enrolment in Church, by the Vicar (note *Monday*, not Tuesday).  
29 Sun. 15 *Trinity*. *St. Michael's Day*. Farewell Sermons by the Vicar at 11 and 6.30.

## OCTOBER

- 1 Tues. 2.45: Pram Service.  
2 Wed. 7.30: C.M.S. Meeting at St. Peter's Hall.  
13 Sun. Harvest Thanksgiving Services.  
31 Thurs. 7.30: Institution of the Rev. L. V. WRIGHT, M.A., as Vicar of Marston.

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**A Smile.** An Archdeacon asked to preach in St. Paul's Cathedral told the late Dean Inge, "I intend to give the congregation a dose of the milk of human kindness". "In that case", replied the Dean, "I hope it will be condensed"!

**A Verse.** Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd; the Good Shepherd giveth his life for the sheep". (St. John X, 11).

**A Thought.** When you are in the right, you can afford to keep your temper: and when you are in the wrong, you cannot afford to lose it.

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**A New Home.** The Vicar is always glad to meet with a family as it occupies a new house, and to pray for God's blessing on the home and family. Incidentally, better late than never!