

AUGUST

FREE

Marston times

PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT NICHOLAS

"IT'S YOUR WORD!"

That's the title of the Quiz programme on the B.B.C., in which our local young people from the Harlow School have done so well. I hope you saw them on T.V. recently, for you'll certainly see them again! Congratulations to them all on this splendid effort.

I have always thought that my worst nightmare would be to appear on a T.V. quiz, for I am sure that if I was asked the simplest questions on the Bible or Christianity my mind would go quite blank.

I always remember being asked to address a gathering of the Christian Brethren. I only quoted one Biblical text in full . . . at least I had only intended to quote one text, but when it came to the point, could I remember it? . . . I could not! I turned to my Bible to read it. The rice paper pages stuck together, and I just couldn't see it for looking! Fortunately they were an understanding group, and felt for me.

But there's no doubt that whether we appear on a quiz programme or have to speak in public, most of us need to know our Bibles better. I

once read "If the New Testament isn't as gripping as the best detective story you've read, then there's something wrong with you and not the Bible".

Why do so many of us not find this to be true? Is it because we've ceased to believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God?

Professor Alan Richardson once wrote: "The meaning of the inspiration of Scripture for me is that I recognize that God's message has been sent into the world with my name and address on it".

In fact we can say that for us today God gives us this gift anew and says to us, amidst all the despair and misery of the world, with the questioning of mankind: "IT'S YOUR WORD!"

Paul N. Rimmer

Paul N. Rimmer

Confectioners
Stationers
BAXTERS
Tobacconists

Tel. no. 42123

V.C. WHITE (MARSTON) LTD.

Family Butcher

17 SALFORD ROAD

TEL 43177

Plumbing Building

**PHILLIPS
& COWLING**

48 PALMER ROAD,
HEADINGTON

OXFORD 63954

Heating Electrical

E.B. HUISH

SCOTCH BEEF
SPECIALIST

4 Cherwell Drive
Tel 64283

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

E. SMITH
7, SALFORD ROAD

Hardware & Electrical Supplies

D.I.Y.

Tel. 42776

OPEN 9am - 7pm
HALF DAY Wed. pm

HATRED . . . AND LOVE

"Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hates you" (1 John 3:13)

Until recently we have been accustomed to being accepted by the world. People have taken it for granted that in England there will be churches in every town and village, and that they will be supported and maintained by people who call themselves Christians. They have used our services and borrowed our premises, and have tolerated our beliefs, even though they may not have agreed with them. But now the situation is changing rapidly and becoming much more like the situation the first Christians had to face. If you watched the Panorama programme on the Church of England, you will have realised that a great many people are beginning to loathe all that we stand for, and that the indifference of the past is turning into a positive hatred. Now I think that this is all to the good: it is forcing the Church both to defend itself articulately, and to attack what it believes to be evil. So I was rather surprised to find so many people in the Church complaining about the Panorama programme as a travesty of the true state of the Church. It was, of course, a caricature, and was probably meant to be; but if the politicians have learned to live with Gerald Scarfe, I do not see why the Church cannot tolerate Julian Pettifer, who is a very able and perceptive reporter. He certainly helped me to identify a good deal of nonsense that passes for Christianity, and a good many of the places where the Church needs reformation. Like St. John, I feel that we ought not to be surprised to discover that the world hates us - and we certainly ought not to scream

Churchyard

The "Churchyard Brigade" have spent many hours at work and their efforts were noted by the judges of the Best Kept Village competition, who reported: "Marston, beset by road works at both ends of the village, had made an obvious effort to control grass in the churchyard". The help from pupils of the Harlow School, under the direction of a member of Staff, was much appreciated. In future the work will be easier due to the gift of a "Flymo".

like spoiled children when we are scratched. Rather we ought to concentrate on doing those things that St. John believed to be characteristic of a Christian in spite of the fact that the world will hate us all the more.

If you will study the Epistle for Trinity II you will discover what St. John thought should be the priorities for every Christian: first, compassion for anyone who is in need, and secondly love - the kind of love that gets things done, rather than the kind that promises to do things and never actually does them. Wherever you may live, whether it be in a city or a village, there are people who need your compassion and your love, and the world won't thank you for giving it to them - indeed it may actually hate you for helping a family of immigrants or someone emerging from a spell in prison. But that is the cost of bearing the cross of Christ, and you know very well that your heart would condemn you (to use St. John's words) if you didn't keep the second great commandment by loving all your neighbours as yourself. What is your church actually doing, rather than promising to do about those who have suffered from the injustice of the world? And what are you doing about the people of Asia and Africa whose plight is so immeasurably worse than our own? The missionary societies tell me that our help is decreasing fast just when it ought to be growing; is your conscience clear about that dreadful fact?

From the Bishop's quarterly letter
(July, 1971)

ROADS

Marston Ferry Link. It has been reported that this is six months ahead of schedule. Representation was made from the Parish Council regarding the dangerous state of the Oxford Road at the Cherwell Drive junction. Since then considerable improvements have been made.

Northern By-pass. This is scheduled for completion in Spring 1972 and progress is reported to be up to expectation. It is hoped that the fly-over will be in use by September of this year.

'Phone Mr. P. Sheppard: Oxford 46294
if you wish to advertise in the
Marston Times

Inns of Marston

The development of Marston from a small self-contained agricultural village to the present dormitory settlement for the City of Oxford can be traced in the history of the inns.

The oldest, known originally as the Ferry Inn, dates back to 1279. The present building, although one of the oldest in the village, is not the original. The fact that the Cherwell is easily crossed at this point makes it a natural place for an inn to be established. It is recorded that the fishing rights and passage across the river were owned for some time by Ralph and Walker, two fishermen of Oxford. It is now a Free House owned by the Oxford Preservation Trust.

At some time during the reign of Queen Victoria the Ferry Inn changed its name and the well-known inn sign of the young Queen became a familiar sight for students punting up the river on May Morning for breakfast at the Victoria Arms.

It is noticeable that none of the inns in the actual village are of the coaching variety commonly seen in Oxford. This is probably because Marston, living up to its name, was recorded as being "situated on a bad, muddy road between St. Clements and Elsfield", and thus was in no condition for stage-coaches.

The White Hart and the Three Horseshoes date from the 17th Century and served the needs of the agricultural workers. In the Census of 1801 there were some 264 people living in the now old village on the higher ground. One, Joseph Blease, of an old-established Marston family, one time landlord of the White Hart, was recorded as having triple employment, namely, farmer, baker and publican.

Further growth of the village into a market-gardening area supplying some of the needs of Oxford, heralded the birth of the Red Lion and the Bricklayers Arms in the late 19th Century.

The development of housing estates on the previous water meadows and farmland in the 20th Century, brought the Jack Russell into being. This modern public house takes its name from the small terrier dogs bred by the Rev. Jack Russell, who is said to have regularly walked from Oxford to Elsfield via Marston.

Thanks to the 20th Century motor-car Marston is no longer a backwater, but a main thoroughfare linking the City, via the Northern By-pass, to other parts of the country. Several of the inns, therefore, have changed their character from purely beerhouses for the men, to comfortable, licensed eating places to be enjoyed by many seeking old-world charm a short distance from the centre of Oxford.

ST. NICHOLAS-TIDE FAYRE

A date for your diary: 4TH DECEMBER
Right now we are needing help with making goods for the Gift Stall, so can you knit or sew?

Have you any wool, material or flower-pots? Please let us have your old nylons and tights for stuffing toys.

Nearer the day we shall want well-bound books, toys for the bran-tub and bottles for the Bottle Stall.

And on the day cakes and refreshments.

If you can help in any way, please contact Mrs. J. Rimmer, The Vicarage, Oxford 47034.

OPEN MEETING

The Parish Council is organising a public meeting at the Harlow School in September to discuss the re-organisation of comprehensive education. There will be an opportunity for discussion and questions and it is hoped that all interested parties will make every effort to attend.

'KARENLEE'

Ladies' & Childrens' Hairdressing

OAPS TUES. SHAMPOO & SET 42P

Open Friday until 7.30 p.m.

Tel 41632

FOR YOUR NEW OFFICE JOB

TEMPORARY or PERMANENT

FULL-TIME or PART-TIME

try **office overload**

38 Queen St Oxford
Telephone 46298

'WHAT'S IN A NAME?'

How do you think of the Church?
As an ambulance service to pick up those who get hurt?

As a social club for the lonely?

As a place where one can enjoy flowers and music, or look at the architecture?

As a body who should speak out on social issues?

In her earliest days, the Church's leaders said that the message and purpose of the Church was SALVATION. But what did they mean by that?

'Salvation' is an uncomfortable and often misused word. Salvation, after all, from what? The answer is that they believed that man could be saved from the evil which surrounds him. He can be saved from evil within and without. He can be saved from all that threatens to isolate him from his neighbour, and eternally from God.

He can be saved from Hell today - the Hell he creates for himself as greed and self-interest eat away at his relationships with others and above all with God.

No doubt the other great religions of the world provide us with many viewpoints from which we can see

various aspects of God. But the Bible, which for Christians is the Word of God, firmly declares the truth which the Church proclaims:

"It was by the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead; it is by His name that this man stands before you fit and well."

THERE IS NO SALVATION IN ANY-ONE ELSE AT ALL, FOR THERE IS NO OTHER NAME UNDER HEAVEN GRANTED TO MEN, BY WHICH WE MAY RECEIVE SALVATION".

Acts 4:10

These are the words of the great Apostle St. Peter, before the High Court of his day. If the Church, and that means each one of us, is to cut any ice today in the world, then surely we need to take Jesus at his word, as St. Peter did?

WHILE THE VICAR IS ON HOLIDAY

The Rev. Donald Sparkes and his family are returning again to the parish from 13th August to 2nd September.

For urgent matters please contact Miss O. J. Lodge, 5 Elsfield Road, Oxford 57956, or Mr. V. C. Cardy, 110 Staunton Road, Oxford 61116.

B.J. NORTON

Newsagents Tobacco Confectioners Stationers
Salford Road
TEL 48932

Come Dancing

Children's Classes MON, THURS, FRI, SAT
Adult Classes FRI 8pm
NORTHMER HALL

L.E.H. HAYLE

VILLAGE STORES Post Office
TEL 49668

Lionel

School of Motoring SELF-DRIVE HIRE
12 Cotswold Crescent
Tel 42126

EDWARD MULLIS Ltd

ST CLEMENT'S
MEN'S & BOY'S WEAR
LADIES' MEN'S & CHILDREN'S SHOES
PROVIDENT & MUTUAL AGENT
TEL 44494

TAXI

WEDDINGS
MR & MRS LEACH
5 OXFORD ROAD
LONG OR SHORT JOURNEYS
TEL 47197

ST GREENAWAY

HAIR STYLIST Ladies & Gents
402 Marston Rd, Oxford
TEL 48726

V.G. STORES

Proprietor C.R. HAYNES
Grocery & Provisions
6 CHERWELL DRIVE

Christian Book Centre

TEL 47567
57A ST CLEMENTS

Joyce's

Tel. 63846
SUMMER DRESSES now in stock
18 CHERWELL DRIVE

LESTERS STORES

Grocery & Provisions
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK - 730

MICHAEL

hair fashions
16 CHERWELL DRIVE
TEL 63842

COLOUR T.V.

BUY YOUR COLOUR T.V. AT
W. R. HAMMOND & SON LTD.
tel 47706 404 Marston Rd