

Marston times

PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT NICHOLAS

"Glory to God in the High St.!"

The Vicar didn't notice it at first. I mean the hole in the stained glass window. It was during a Lesson at Evensong about 'the Hivites, the Perizzites, and the Jebusites' that he saw it. Someone had thrown a stone, which had gone clean through the inscription below the Christmas scene. Now it no longer read "Glory to God in the Highest" but GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGH ST." The Vicar looked again. As the organ played over the chant for the Magnificat, it suddenly dawned on him . . . This is what it's all about. This is the real Christmas Message.

It's not just a story for Church folk. It can't be kept within the four walls of this or any other church.

It's good news for the folk in the High Street, whether they come to Church or not. He thought of the tired old dear he'd seen standing in the bus queue with a heavy shopping basket. It was good news for her. "Come unto me all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you". It was good news for the group of students with their placards challenging the status quo. You couldn't get anything more revolutionary than Mary's song Magnificat. It was good news for the couple whose marriage was

about to break up . . . "Unto you is born this day in the city of David" . . . in the city of Oxford . . . in the city of Moscow, and Belfast and New York . . . "A Saviour which is Christ the Lord". A Saviour! . . . the word seemed to have lost its old-fashioned ring. Now it was ringed with fire . . . "Glory to God in the High St." . . . This is Good News for everyone.

"I say, Jim, did you notice the Vicar at Evensong tonight - he looked in a bit of a daze, as though he'd won the Pools!"

"Funny, I thought so too. I told him after Church that the cemetery wall was falling down, and that there's still a smell of gas in the Church . . . but he didn't seem a bit worried. He just said: 'Jim, I'll tell you something else too. Someone's thrown a stone through the bottom of the Christmas window and d'you know what, Jim? That's the best thing that's happened for me in this Church for years!'"

A Happy Christmas to you All . . . and full of new meaning for you.

John N. Rumbold

Vicar and Rural Dean.

Confectioners
Stationers
BAXTERS
Newsagents
Tobacconists

Tel.no. 42123

V.C.WHITE (MARSTON) LTD.

Family Butcher

17 SALFORD ROAD

TEL 43177

**COOPER
AND MILLS**
ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS

ESTIMATES FREE
WITHOUT OBLIGATION
SMALL BUILDING
WORK AND
DECORATING
ALL TYPES OF
ELECTRICAL
INSTALLATIONS
REWIRING,
RING CIRCUITS,
ELECTRIC CENTRAL
HEATING
STORAGE HEATING
WATER HEATING
60 MARSH LANE
OLD MARSTON,
OXFORD.
OXFORD 61320

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

THROUGH CHRISTMAS TO TRUTH

As Christmas draws near we inevitably become involved in all the familiar preparations, and particularly our thoughts turn to gifts and giving. It is easy to busy ourselves with these activities to such an extent that we neglect to ponder sufficiently on God's gifts to us - health and the necessities of life, the world of nature and the arts, the love of family and friends; but above all, of course, the greatest of God's gifts, beyond all our deserving, is the giving to us of His Son - the event which is the very root of our Christmas celebrations. The birth of the baby at Bethlehem, in the picturesque setting of the stable, with the shepherds and kings playing their parts, is a most attractive and appealing one, and because of this it is easy for us to be too glib in our acceptance of it; we delight in the story for its own sake, without perhaps thinking and questioning the mystery beyond it. For mystery indeed it is - one far too great for us to grasp -

"Lo, within a manger lies
He who built the starry skies"

How could God, who created all things and who stands outside the realm of his creation, enter it and actually become man - a man like other men, with weaknesses and temptations and a mortal frame? This question is perhaps too difficult for us even to try to answer; but we may try to grasp a bit more clearly why God should choose this way of effecting salvation for a fuller mankind - why not simply make us better? But that would be a salvation using a choice which was not free - and therefore of no ultimate value. In fact it seems that from God's point of view the only truly satisfactory way of eliciting a genuine and free response from man was to love him - and to love him to the uttermost. But why, we may ask, should this great love issue in the Incarnation?

"Veiled in flesh the Godhead see:
Hail the Incarnate deity:
Born as man with man to dwell"

The key must surely lie in what we are told in Genesis - That God made man and only man, in His own image - and therefore manhood was the natural vehicle for God's entry into His creation. As a man, the Son of God stands in a unique relation to both man and God, and, so to speak, as a bridge between men - so that in some mysterious way we may become one with Christ and so one with God. And from the psychological point of view, God as Man is for men the perfect revelation of God - and the most compelling our response to this Man's birth, to His life and works, and to the sacrifice of His death, are the deeply felt response of man for fellow-man

As we hear again the message of the angels this year, let us think beyond Bethlehem, beyond the historical Christmas, to the reality behind it - to God's utter and amazing love for us, and to that great gift which was given, not just at the first Christmas but eternally for all who will accept it.

Helen Foster

Parish Council Notes

The Parish Council has vacant allotments in Mill Lane. Anyone interested in renting one should contact Mr. Garner at 31 Oxford Road.

Notice of Parish Meeting on
12th January, 1972 at 7.30 p.m. at
St. Nicholas School.

The meeting is called specifically to discuss the footpath between Rappington Drive and Croft Road recreation ground.

The Parish Council has decided to order £1,000 worth of equipment for the recreation ground in Boults Lane. It is hoped that this will be installed by the middle of next year.

'marston times' reprieve!

At the P.C.C. Meeting on 11th November it was decided to continue both the Marston News and the free broadsheet, the Marston Times.

If you would like to receive the Marston News - the Parish Magazine for everyone - please inform the Vicar or Miss Lodge. It was felt that with the rise in costs, this magazine would in future have to be 5p per copy - 50p per annum for those who pay in January.

marston players

THURSDAY, 16TH DECEMBER

8 p.m. in Church
"The Hollow Crown"

Anthology on the Kings of England

FOR YOUR NEW OFFICE JOB

TEMPORARY or PERMANENT

FULL-TIME or PART-TIME

try **office overload**

38 Queen St Oxford
Telephone 46298

St. Nicholas Church

Christmas dates for your Diary

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SATURDAY, 4TH DECEMBER

In the Church Hall and Scout Hut
In Aid of the Church Overseas

TO BE OPENED AT 2.30 P.M. BY
H.E. THE EMIR OF TABAQ (REGENCY STATES)

We are grateful to His Excellency for
graciously consenting to open our
Bazaar this year. His uncle has been a
personal friend of the Vicar for many
years.

We hope that many people will be present
at 2.30 p.m. to give His Excellency a
warm welcome.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE

11.30 p.m. MID-NIGHT COMMUNION

CHRISTMAS DAY

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. CHRISTMAS FAMILY SERVICE

This Service will be relayed by BBC
Radio Oxford. Please be in Church
by 10.45 a.m.

(There will be a radio link-up at
the Vicarage after this Service)

5.30 p.m. Evensong (said with no
sermon)

ST. NICHOLAS DAY

OUR PATRONAL FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, 5TH DECEMBER

10 a.m. Parish Communion and ACT OF
DEDICATION for the whole Parish.

11.15 a.m. ST. NICHOLAS TOY AND GIFT
SERVICE for parents and children

We hope to welcome many parents and
children to this service when toys
and gifts, particularly for the older
child, will be received. These will
be distributed to homes through out
the county by the Children's Officer,
who prefers them unwrapped.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

WEDNESDAY, 22ND DECEMBER, 6.30 P.M.

A FAMILY CAROL SERVICE FOR PARENTS
AND CHILDREN

(Parents with small children most
welcome)

Followed afterwards by coffee and
mince pies in the Church Hall

SUNDAY, 26TH DECEMBER, 6.30 P.M.

FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

(Admission to both Carol Services is
by free ticket)

carol tickets

SUNDAY, 12TH DECEMBER

Admission to the Carol Services is by
free ticket owing to limited accommo-
dation. Tickets will be available at
the Services on this Sunday

OVER 60's CLUB

WEDNESDAY 8TH DECEMBER

Christmas Party in the Mortimer Hall

5 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAY, 19TH DECEMBER

There will be the usual Instruction

SUNDAY 26TH DECEMBER AND 2ND JANUARY

No Instruction for any class

EACH SUNDAY FROM 9TH JANUARY

10 a.m.

Crossbearers and Catechism in Church
Hall

11.15 a.m.

Juniors in Church
Kindergarten in the Church Hall
Nursery Group in the Mortimer Hall

- - - - -

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY for the Kinder-
garten and Nursery children will be
on Saturday, 15th January.

marston wives

WEDNESDAY, 8TH DECEMBER

7.45 p.m. in the Church Hall

"A Christmas Cracker"

Music, recipes, decorations and carols

CHRISTMAS CHARACTERS

Christmas is a time of fact and legend. The customs and characters of Christmas are a curious blend of the facts of Christianity and the folk-lore and legend of many countries.

Who is it that springs to your mind at this time? Santa Claus, the name derived from St. Nicholas, patron Saint of our Church, and formerly Bishop of Myra in the 4th century. Legend has it that so great was his concern for people and the power of silent giving, that when he heard of three dowerless daughters of a poor but kindly nobleman, he anonymously left a bag of gold for each, thus enabling them to marry.

In such ways he epitomises the giving of Christmas. Attired in red coat and white beard, perhaps derived from his bishop's dress, he is now blended with Scandinavian legend to a figure in a sledge with reindeer.

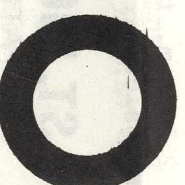
It may be the Wise Men who hold your imagination. The New Testament records them as searching out the young baby Jesus guided by an uncommonly bright star. Legend has surrounded them with mystery. Some would see them as three astrologers from the middle east, others as Parsees from India - Zoroastrians, worshippers of light, which in any form, speaks to them of God. Again, some would say that the three met on

the journey, one from Europe, one from Asia and the third from Africa, each searching for truth and revelation from God in his own way. Instead each was pointed to the one revelation which God himself found fit to make.

It is perhaps the baby Jesus so small and helpless who holds your imagination. God's own way to speak to us in a form which is eloquent, if only we want to see. What of him? Born into the squalor of a stable perhaps, but also into the warmth of a family. Is this perhaps where we should start our Christmas - with our family - and see where this wee babe might fit in?

M.E.C.

Look at this
carefully



Hold the above circle to your face and blow on it.

If it turns green, call your doctor.
If it turns brown, see your dentist.
If it turns purple, see a psychiatrist.
If it turns red, see your bank manager.
If it turns grey, call your lawyer and make your will.

If it remains the same colour, you are in good health, and there is no reason why you should not be in Church next Sunday!

B.J. NORTON

Newsagents Tobacco
Confectioners
Stationers
Salford Road
TEL 48932

Lionel

42126
School of Motoring
SELF-DRIVE HIRE
12 Cotswold Crescent

ST GREENAWAY

48726
HAIR STYLIST
Ladies & Gents
402 Marston Rd, Oxford

Christian Book Centre

TEL 47567
57A ST CLEMENTS

MICHAEL

hair fashions
16 CHERWELL DRIVE
TEL 63842

PUBLISHERS PCC OLD MARSTON

Come Dancing

Children's Classes
MON, THURS, FRI.
Adult Classes
MORTIMER HALL

EDWARD MULLIS Ltd

ST CLEMENT'S
MEN'S & BOY'S WEAR
LADIES', MEN'S
& CHILDREN'S SHOES
PROVIDENT &
MUTUAL AGENT
TEL 44484

Joyce's

63846
Tel. Baby Linen
Children's Wear
Wool Slippers
Ladies Wear
Menswear
16 CHERWELL DRIVE

1971

L.E.H. HAYLE

VILLAGE STORES
Post Office
TEL 49668

TAXI

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

V.G. STORES

DIOPHETER C R HAYNES
Grocery & Provisions
6 CHERWELL DRIVE

LESTERS STORES

Grocery & Provisions
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK - 730

COLOUR T.V.

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

PRINTER PARCLEMENT LTD OXFORD*