

JULY

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FREE

Marston times

PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT NICHOLAS

'TINKER, TAILOR, SOLDIER, SAILOR...'

Ken Batt, who played football for the Keystones, is a qualified accountant. John Staley was a navigation officer on the P & O line. Today they are deacons in the Church of God. Like the early Christians they were called from their secular occupations to full-time apostleship. Jesus Christ said to a fisherman, to a doctor, to a tax inspector: "Follow me!" and they did.

A few days ago I met a research scientist. He told me that he had only become a Christian three years before, and was now training to be a lay reader.

Some of you who read this letter may soon be going on holiday. Holiday time is a good time to take stock, to read something different. You might take "Good News for Modern Man" - the gospels in a new translation and paper-back form.

There are plenty of good religious paper-backs that will enlarge your thinking.

If you haven't been to church for ages, go to a 'live' Church when you're on holiday. You never know what might happen. A man once dropped in at a Salvation Army revival meeting. It had such a profound effect on him, and he returned home so different, that his own dog bit him! Christianity can indeed be a life-transforming experience. It was for the early Christians. It still is for us today.

"Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Sailor" . . . It takes all types to make the Church.

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TRAVELLING LIGHT

ANOTHER FACET OF THE CHURCH

By the Rev. Jim Thompson - Recent Chaplain to Cuddesdon College

On Sunday my wife and I attended the third Communion Service held by Anglicans on the new housing estate called Thamesmead. There were twelve of us, including one old lady, three married couples, a mother and her 14 year old daughter. We met in the Old People's room in the middle of the concrete housing blocks, and the cost of the rent for the service was 25p. I brought home the possessions of the Thamesmead Anglican Church in a carrier bag provided by the Co-op.

The service was very informal and instead of a sermon we had a discussion of the two set texts for the day. In spite of what sociological sceptics had suggested, everyone made some contribution to the discussion and it was an expression of true community. Our Anglican Service was followed by the Roman Catholic Mass. Their belongings were in suitcases! The Roman Catholic Priest and myself are members of the same group ministry - indeed he was on the committee that appointed me.

My Anglican colleague and I have no buildings to look after - we can hire the room for a very small fee. We are able to concentrate our efforts upon the people of God rather than the buildings of the Church. All sorts of advantages follow. People do not feel put off by a building and an establishment. We are extremely flexible as none of our customs have become solidified with possessions. We are able all the time to confront people with the fact that the Church is people and not buildings. It begins to feel like a movement rather than an institution.

After the very short time we have been here we have no authority to say this is the best way to be in Thamesmead. But for the two Anglican priests it feels like having been freed from fetters, to live and activate the Body of Christ. The Temple is not made with hands and this is inspiring to those whose breath and hands are being His Breath and Hands.

We feel that this ecumenical venture, without a Church building, is a pioneer task in the Church and it is fascinating being able to travel so light at its beginnings. I ask whether the encouragement and stimulus we feel is not that old primeval spirit of God working in our limbs which have been freed of bricks and mortar. We shall probably have buildings in several years' time, but I think we shall look back with wonder to the time when we were travelling light.

NEWS IN BRIEF

HARLOW SCHOOL ON T.V.

The Harlow School will represent Oxford in a new quiz programme called "It's Your Word". The programme will be tele-recorded on Monday, 5th July, and televised at 5 p.m. on Monday, 26th July. We wish the team well in its efforts.

SPORTS REPORTER

Marston people must be delighted to hear the voice of Nigel Starmer Smith giving the Sports report on Radio 4. Nigel plays for Harlequins, and is an International. He will soon be leaving for a tour with the English Rugby Team in the Far East. We send him our congratulations on qualifying for his M.A.

VISIT OF THE BISHOP TO MARSTON

Our new Bishop will be visiting Marston to conduct the Licensing Service for Parish and Social Workers of the Diocese on Wednesday, 7th July, at 11.30 a.m.

PUNT PARTY

For all those recently confirmed.
Date: Saturday, 10th July. Cost 25p.
Time: 6.30 p.m.
Sign list in Church porch NOW if you want to go.

OXFORDSHIRE ANIMAL SANCTUARY SOCIETY

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Mrs. Deam, 71 Oxford Road, Marston.

PLEASE HELP

FUNDS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED

Three Into One

By Roy Sharp

Won't Go

One of the most absurd concepts of Christian theology is the idea of the Trinity. "Three in One and One in Three", we gaily sang on 6th June, Trinity Sunday, but it is not necessary to be a mathematician to appreciate that there is either one of something or three of them - they cannot be both three and one at the same time.

Why then did the early Christians introduce this paradoxical idea? To make sense of it, we have to look at the evidence of the nature of God as we read about Him in the Bible. Jesus spoke of God as someone He knew and obeyed but yet He said "He that has seen me has seen the Father". Similarly, He spoke of the Holy Spirit as the Comforter whom He would send to His disciples, yet they recognized this same Comforter as the Spirit of Christ working inside and alongside them.

So we cannot get away from the fact that we are faced with a God we are not able to understand completely. To use the word 'Trinity' does nothing to explain the nature of God - only to describe it. The word reminds us of the great mystery which surrounds all our impressions of God; reminds us of the inadequacy of our attempt to explain in any words the complexity of the Being who not only created the Universe but also redeemed it, and is still working in it: Father, Son and Holy Spirit - truly 'Three Persons in One God'.

"STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL"

Clare Rimmer, the daughter of our Vicar, plays the lead in the pre-London Musical of the above title which is on at the Kenton Theatre, Henley-on-Thames, during Regatta Week (28th June-2nd July).

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Preserve? - jams, pickles, bottled fruit, wine. Next time you have a session perhaps you could earmark some for the Fayre and then come and help sell it!

Children's Stall - pincushions, pictures, models, etc. and cakes, bread, bottle stall and white elephants, nearer the time.

It could be great fun - No! it is NOT already organised, we do need YOU.

Your IDEAS, ENERGY and HELP.

Please do not put it off.

Further information from:- Mrs. J. Rimmer, The Vicarage, Telephone No. Oxford 47034.

The monetary proceeds are for the Church Missionary Society, the "incidental proceeds" for the village community itself.

"WHO CARES?"

BOOK REVIEW

The auto-biography of the Rev. Nicholas Stacey (published by Anthony Blond £2.50. Ask the library to get it in for you!) is well worth reading as it describes his varied career from Dartmouth to Deputy Director of Oxfam, the major part of the book concentrating on his work as Rector of Woolwich. Very readable.

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'I Do Go to Church, Vicar Because

"You have asked me to say why we go to Church, Vicar, and I find it rather hard to put it down on paper.

I think we started to go because Mary and Elizabeth were going to the Children's Church and they noticed that other children had their parents with them at the 10 o'clock service, so they asked why we didn't go too. So, rather grudgingly because there is always so much to do on a Sunday morning, my husband and I agreed to go with them once.

We expected to be bored, but, strange to say, we were not. The hymns brought back memories of our own Sunday School days, and the sermon, somehow, did make us think; and then, too, we found everyone so friendly.

People told us that the Parish Church was an ice-house, and when we got there, we found it just the opposite.

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

The next Sunday, rather to the twins surprise, we said we were going again, and except for once or twice, we have done so ever since. Now we would not miss it for we find that it makes all the difference to the week. Christ has become so much more real to both of us. I really don't know why we didn't go before, but having got out of doing so I suppose it was hard to get back. We thought people would look at us as strangers, but they did not.

So that's why we go to Church."

THIS ARTICLE IS THE SECOND OF A SERIES BY CANON MURRAY WALTON

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Family Communion	10.00 a.m.
Childrens Instruction	11.15 a.m.
Evensong	6.30 p.m.

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