

MAY

FREE

Marston times

PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT NICHOLAS

"THE MERRY MONTH OF MAY"

It begins with a carol sung at dawn on the top of Magdalen Tower. Then the Morris Men begin to dance. It is Labour Day too. In Russia it usually marks a great display of armed strength and marching troops.

In many churches here the sound of bells reminds us that congregations are gathering to remember the early Apostles St. Philip and St. James. They will pray that they may be as steadfast as these early Christians, and, in the words of the special collect for the day, may 'know thy Son Jesus Christ to be the Way, the Truth and the Life'.

But for so many people, May 1st will be just another day, and May just another month. The old Church in the village is the place 'where John was christened, and Mary was married'. And most of them would say: 'Well, no, I'm not much of a church-goer ... but it doesn't mean to say I'm not religious'.

But May ends with Whit Sunday Pentecost the Festival of Christian Power the day when we recall the 'lost dynamic' of the Christian Church.

I think it would be true to say that the Apostles would not recognise as Christianity much of our nominal Church membership today. They would reject it not so much as heretical, but because it is so DULL and LIFELESS.

But the month of May could really become 'merry' in the right sense for many, if they became aware of Jesus to be, not the Christ of the tomb, but a Presence and a Power in their lives. And if this happened the old Church in the village would be transformed from being '12th century Norman' to '20th century contemporary' in its relevance to the village.

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KEEPING MARSTON GREEN

Readers of the Marston Times may not realise the part the Oxford Preservation Trust plays in their affairs. Most of the land between the village and the river north of Colthorns Farm, land on both sides of the By-pass, the Victoria Arms and Marston Ferry belong to the Trust. In addition it acts as a pressure group concerned with preserving and improving the amenities of the countryside surrounding Oxford.

Marston subscribers - and anyone may become a subscriber for as little as 25p a year (or as much as they please!) - have a say in Trust affairs through a representative on the Executive Committee, their own Area Committee, and general meetings.

At a general meeting held recently, two hours' lively discussion led to the initiation of action in a number of concerns.

One was the planting and preservation of trees and hedges. John Collier explained the City's plans for landscaping the new Marston Ferry Road, which did not allow for any planting north of the road because it was felt that existing hedges on Trust land acted as an adequate screen.

Members were consequently alarmed to learn that these hedges were likely to be grubbed in the interest of improved farming, and strongly urged the Trust to retain them.

On the other hand, the meeting was delighted to learn that the Trust was intending the plant coppices and hedges beside the Northern By-pass on both sides of the Elsfeld flyover, as well as an avenue of chestnuts along the approach road to the Victoria Arms.

Turning from Trust property to planning matters in general, members decided among other things

Polling day-May 11

Polling takes place on May 11th in the local government elections. All the members of Marston Parish Council resign every three years and fourteen candidates are this year contesting the twelve places. Residents of Marston will also be voting on the same day for their Bullingdon Rural District Council representatives. The parish has two seats and there have been three candidates nominated.

to ask for a preservation order to be made on the elms in Fane Road, and to express to the planning authority their views on the kind and density of development that should be allowed in the area to the west of that road. They were pleased that Cannons Farm house had at last been restored, but expressed concern that the adjoining land might be allowed to go derelict.

Peter Nye was re-elected Chairman of the Area Committee and representative on the Executive Committee. Since the area covered comprises not only the parish of Marston, but adjoining parts of the City, as well as Elsfeld and Wood Eaton, committee members were elected from all parts of the area. Anyone interested in joining the Trust or learning more about it is invited to get in touch with Peter or Phyllis Nye (13 Mill Lane, Marston, telephone Oxford 42446).

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

.... but I can only afford £1.00, 50p, 10p, or even only 2p.!! - what is the use of that?

Never mind - put in in the envelope you will have received with this newspaper, and Christian Aid will put it to the best use possible. Christian Aid is the organisation of the British Council of Churches, all denominations, to make our giving effective where it is most needed in the world.

Sudden tragedy, emergency, feeding, housing or medical aid; but especially for the long term in education, industrial training, farm management, and in the provision of scholarships, in economics and social studies for young leaders.

A Christian Aid collector will call during the week 17th - 22nd May for your envelope and will answer any questions you may have.

PLEASE BE GENEROUS - WE ALL HAVE SO MUCH - THEY ARE CONTENT WITH SO LITTLE.

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On Prayer

Most of us want help at sometime or other with our prayers, asking how to pray, or what to say. The needs of each one of us is different. Our Lord's disciples went to Him for help too -

"Lord, teach us to pray".

Jesus not only told them how to pray but also what to say...

"When ye pray, say, 'Our Father who art in heaven ...'".

Since then, through the ages this has been the pattern prayer.

People who pray become sensitive to God, by speaking to Him, and even more important, by listening to Him. So we need to learn to be quiet; and to plan times, however short, to be quiet. We also learn what He has to say to us by reading the Bible - the "Word of God".

We learn to know and love our friends by being with them either alone or in company. Similarly our friendship with God grows as we meet him privately, or in company, in church or prayer groups.

LISTEN ...

Think of our Lord speaking to you... "Speak to me as you would to anyone of whom you are very fond."

Are there any people you want to pray for? Say their names to me and ask of me as much as you like. I am generous and know all their needs, but I want you to show your love for them and me by trusting me to do what I know is best.

Tell me about the poor, the sick, and if you have lost the friendship or affection of anyone, tell me about that too.

Is there anything you want for yourself? Write out a list of all your needs and come and read it to me.

Tell me about your pride, your touchiness, selfcentredness, meanness and laziness. Do not be ashamed; there are many saints in Heaven who had the same faults as you; they prayed to me and, little

by little, their faults were corrected. What is it you want today? What are your plans? Tell me about them.

Tell me about your failures, and I will show you the cause of them. Are you afraid of anything?

Trust yourself to me. I am here. I see everything, I will not leave you.

Have you no joys to tell me about? Share your happiness with me".

So Jesus might speak to us, and we in our different ways would have to respond.

The quoted paragraphs were condensed from a leaflet entitled 'Think of our Lord Speaking to you' published by Mirfield Publications. We are grateful to them for permission to use this.

JUMBLE!

Has anyone asked for your "Spring Cleaning" Jumble? Please save it for our GRAND CHRISTIAN AID JUMBLE SALE - SATURDAY MAY 22ND - 2 P.M. IN THE WORTIMER HALL - and take it work for you in the needy world of today.

All Jumble will be collected during the week May 17 - 22nd. Phone: P. Sheppard 46294

J. Whetham

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Please help - there is so much to be done.

DO you want to advertise in Marston Times? If so, phone Mr. P. Sheppard : Oxford 46294.

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'I Don't Go to Church, Vicar Because -----

'I have so much else to do - cooking my husband's dinner, seeing to the garden, tidying up as I have to work all the week! and a host of other reasons too, though of course there is a slow oven for the dinner, and an Evening Service when the day's work in the garden is over. And as for the dusting and tidying and other chores, all will be done better with the song in one's heart which worship should provide. No, the real matter we have to decide is not of jobs but of priorities. If the worship of God is a low priority then, of course, other things can claim precedence, and God can come in when we have time for Him - if we have. But if worship is a necessity, or even only an expedient, dare we relegate it to second place? In a world where we can never escape the pressure of material things, are not the words of St. Paul all the more true, that the things that are seen are temporal but the things that are not seen are eternal? The whole purpose of worship is to lift us up to these eternal realities: it is not just a

SERVICES at ST. NICHOLAS'

EVERY SUNDAY

Holy Communion	8.00 a.m.
Family Communion	10.00 a.m.
Childrens Instruction	11.15 a.m.
Evensong	6.30 p.m.

WEEKDAYS

Holy Communion Wednesdays 7.15 a.m.
 Holy Communion 3rd Friday 10.30 a.m.
 and the
 laying on of
 Hands for the Sick.

matter of 'going to Church'.

William Temple was always wont to measure his words with care.

"This world" he said "can be saved from political chaos by one thing only, and that is worship". To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God.

But ultimately we look to our Lord for our standards, don't we? No-body lived under greater pressure than He did: often compelled to spend the night in prayer because He had no opportunity during the day, yet He was regular in His worship. of Luke IV 16.

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