

Marston times

PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT NICHOLAS

"MARSTON SAINTS"

If that title attracted you, you must be either a keen local footballer, or a good Churchman, or perhaps both. For that's the name of our local boys' football team, and November is the month when we keep the Festival of All Saints. So first let us say a word of thanks to all who give of their time to train our young people, or to work in the Youth Club. The latter can do with lots of adult help on a Monday evening, so if you can give a few hours then please contact Peter Sergeant, 2 Windsor Crescent, . . . and then prepare to roll up your sleeves!

Then a word about the Saints of Marston. Mention the word "Saint" to most people and they think of beards, and haloes, and dressing-gowns, the three main features of most stained glass windows. It may not be true that our gentle St. Nicholas, whilst he was Bishop of Myra, boxed the ears of the heretic Arius at the Council of Nicea, but certainly the saints of old were intensely human. You need only read the Gospels to discover yourself in some aspects of the lives of the Apostles.

The important thing to remember is that the Saints of old were both prayerful and practical. Their whole life was steeped in prayer. They were Christ-centred, and as a result they got on with the job. St. Swithun is only remembered by many because of rainy days, and yet he was a great builder of bridges and Churches. And there are the modern saints, people like Dick Sheppard, and Albert Schweitzer, and Mother Teresa . . . all saintly, yet intensely human and practical. People like these have a zest for living and no fear of dying. I'm quite certain that if Francis of Assisi had seen the Marston Saints playing football, he'd have stopped to watch. And when he chatted afterwards, he'd have made the players feel that faith and football are not poles apart, but that God could be equally present in both.

The Bible says we are ALL 'called to be Saints', not in a 'holier than thou' sense of the word, but 'dedicated' completely to God.

James N. Kennedy

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FOR YOU...?

Several parishes in the diocese will be holding missions this autumn, and I look forward to participating in some and praying for all of them. But all Christians are baptized to be men with a mission to the world, ("As the Father sent me, so I send you" - John 20:21), and I should therefore like you to think about your mission.

In Jesus' lifetime he wanted his friends to be close to him to hear the Gospel, in order that they might become effective witnesses to its power. He chose his twelve disciples in the first place to be with him and in the second place to proclaim the Gospel (Mark 3:14). After his resurrection, in his final charge to the Apostles, he gave them a new commission in much the same form, but with a slightly different emphasis. He told them first to go and make all nations his disciples, and then promised to be with them always to the end of time (Matthew 28:19). The two passages tell the same truth - that you cannot proclaim the Gospel without the presence and companionship of Christ.

I think this means that if you want to be an effective witness to the power of Christ and his presence in our world, you must first see that your prayers are in good order. It is chiefly through prayer that our Lord enables us to draw closer to him. But it's no good thinking that you can go on for ever using the prayers that you learned from your parents or the priest who prepared you for Confirmation. Prayers, like any human activity, have to develop and grow in maturity. Secondly you must ensure that you are always ready to give a reason for your Christian hope (1 Peter 3:15), which means that you ought to consider doing some serious study of the Gospel during the winter evenings. There are lots of excellent paperbacks in the Pelican or Fontana lists, and I am sure your parish priest will be only too glad to help you to choose one which will extend and deepen your understanding of the Christian Faith.

From the Bishop's Quarterly Letter
October, 1971

ART COMPETITION

An Art Competition is being organised in connection with the Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, 4th December, in the Church Hall.

There will be two groups of entries:-

- (a) Under nine years old
Theme: "Christmas All Over the World"

- (b) Nine to fourteen years old
Theme: "St. Nicholas"

The subjects may be treated in any way imaginable. Entries should be in colour on paper at least foolscap size. The name and age of the entrant should be clearly stated on the bottom right hand corner.

The entrance fee is 5p, and entries may be handed in at any of the services or at Sunday School. There is no limit to the number which may be submitted, but a separate charge will be made for each.

All entries will be put on display in the Church Hall on 4th December and special prizes will be awarded to the winners in each group.

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

REMEMBRANCE DAY

NOV. 14th.

SERVICES AT ST. NICHOLAS

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

9.45 a.m. Parish Communion

Preacher:
The Rev. J. Mullins
from Bangalore, India

10.55 a.m. REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE
The British Legion will
attend and everyone will
be welcome.

6.30 p.m. Evensong

St. Aldate's Mission

The Bishop of Coventry will be conducting a Mission at St. Aldate's from 31st October to 7th November. The Theme is "Truth to Tell". On week nights the sessions will be at 8.15 p.m. and members of St. Nicholas parish are all invited. It is hoped to have a Missioner to preach to us during this time.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

AT THE ST. NICHOLAS PRIMARY SCHOOL
SATURDAY, 20TH NOVEMBER, 2.30 P.M.

'Our Father —'

ST. NICHOLAS FELLOWSHIP

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN,

- not remote, but clearer than the
wind upon our faces; for you are
everywhere, and Heaven is where you
are.

HOLY BE YOUR NAME.

- help me reverence you by the way
I think and speak, and treat my fellow-
men, of all nations, colours and
creeds.

YOUR KINGDOM COME.

- for it is the kingdom of love and
of right relationships, it is the
rule of God in the hearts and lives of
all men.

YOUR WILL BE DONE

- by me, and through me, this moment,
this day, and tomorrow, and for ever,
for 'Your Will is our peace'.

ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN.

- in my home and family, in my
Church, in my Nation, for the 'Life
of the Age to Come' begins here and
now.

GIVE US TODAY OUR DAILY BREAD.

- enough for our need, but not for
our greed; and enable us to share our
bread with those who have none and
depend upon us.

FORGIVE US OUR SINS.

- not just the seeming 'religious'
sins, but the inner and penetrating
sins of cynicism, jealousy and
resentment.

AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO SIN AGAINST US.

- not in the same measure as you
forgive us, but in the sincere desire
and prayer for Thy blessing upon them.

DO NOT BRING US TO THE TEST

- for our confidence is not in our-
selves, and we know our weakness.

BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL;

- the evil we dare not face; the
evil that so often surrounds or
threatens us; the evil that destroys
our souls.

FOR THE KINGDOM, THE POWER AND THE
GLORY ARE YOURS NOW AND FOR EVER.

And we are your children,
And without You, we are nothing,
And our lives without purpose.
But with You, we find love and joy
And peace for evermore.

Amen.

PATRONAL FESTIVAL

We shall keep ST. NICHOLAS DAY
on Sunday, 5th December. It would be
good to see a really representative
gathering in Church on that day.
Services: 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 6.30 p.m.

As many of you will be aware we
shall be organising a Stewardship
Campaign in the Spring of next year.
We do, however, hope that all those
who take envelopes or are under
covenant to the Church will con-
tinue to do so in the coming year.
Unless we hear to the contrary we
shall send you your envelopes for
the coming year as usual.

You will be visited in the course
of the Campaign so that you will not
feel "out of it". It will also
provide the opportunity for you to
make any adjustment in your giving
in the light of fresh insight on
Stewardship.

We are more than grateful to all
who have made regular contributions
during the past year, which has
helped in the framing of our annual
church budget.

BROWNIE BAZAAR

MONDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER, 6.30-8 P.M.

IN THE SCOUT HUT (BY THE CHURCH)

Christmas Gifts: Bran Tub,
Refreshments, etc.

Do please come and give us your
support

ROAD OPEN!

Well, we've all opposed the
Marston Ferry Road, but now that
its become a fact, there's a
feeling of expectancy as it nears
completion. The date scheduled
for its opening is Friday,
12th November.

marston players

The Marston Players are short of
members. We should be delighted to
see anyone who is interested in
joining us. We meet on Thursdays
between 8 and 8.30 p.m. at the
Mortimer Hall. There is no age limit
although we do like to encourage
younger people.

Ian Johnson

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Memories of J.H.M.

These initials appear on the iron gates leading into the memorial garden opposite the White Hart Inn. Few folk know for what they stand - they are in fact a tribute to the Rev. John Hamilton Mortimer, who served this Parish as its Vicar from 1905 to 1951, when New Marston was included in our ecclesiastical parish. His generosity was boundless as the old St. Michael's Hall, the Primary St. Michael's School and the modern church of St. Michael in Marston Road all testify. In our own village we have Mortimer Road and the Mortimer Hall to remind us of him. The recreation ground where the Hall stands was given to the village by him for what he thought then - for recreation for ALL time. This item alone cost £2,000 which gives one an idea of his generosity.

The Memorial Garden is the site of what used to be the Reading Room - a two storey building which was formerly stables and workshop of Mr. J. Honour who was responsible for much of the re-furnishing of the Church in 1885. John Mortimer bequeathed the building to the Parish and after alterations it became the "village hall" and later on an overflow classroom, kitchen and dining room for the Old school. For a period it also served as a Cookery Centre for the senior girls of Marston and Elsfeld.

John Mortimer's great love of music was a tremendous influence in the parish - splendid Musical Evenings were held in the Reading Room complete with the concert grand piano from the Town Hall in Oxford. John always met the expenses of these meetings which were considerable as we had the privilege of listening to the very best vocalists, choirs and instrumentalists from far and wide. He was no mean pianist himself and occasionally gave us recitals of his favourite composers. Older residents will remember the famous Drum and Fife band - complete with the smartest of uniforms - which he sponsored and which became such a feature of the local fairs and feasts, alas no longer celebrated.

Church services were noted for the wide range of music used and the augmentation of the organ and choir by a variety of instrumentalists. Services were often enlivened by John's use of the dulcimer which he kept at hand in the Chancel and with which he controlled the timing and emphasis of the music being sung!

J. C. L.

QUOTE---

FOR I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL. IT IS THE SAVING POWER OF GOD FOR EVERYONE WHO HAS FAITH.

ROM. I. N.E.B.

B.J. NORTON

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