

APRIL

FREE

Marston times

PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT NICHOLAS

"SURPRISE SURPRISE!"

"As I was going up the stair,
I met a man who wasn't there . . ."

At least He shouldn't have been according to all reports. After all there had been the arrest, the prolonged trials, the flogging, death by crucifixion. Friends had managed to get permission for the body of Jesus to be put in Joseph of Arimathea's garden tomb. Pilate had at least granted them this. The tomb had been sealed and sentries posted.

They had heard reports that the women had found the stone rolled away. Some said that Jesus had turned up at Emmaus, but it all sounded like hysteria.

There was just a depressing 'what-do-we-know?' kind of feeling. Some said: "Better carry on as before". Some said: "Ask Peter". And as they hurried along to that Upper Room where Jesus used to meet his friends, He met them . . .

"As I was going up the stair,
I met a Man who wasn't there . . ."

and the effect was so startling they were speechless. They just wanted to rush out and tell the world: "Jesus Christ is Risen Today!" For they knew that God had raised this man from the tomb. No longer could death be the worst thing about life.

They believed Him too when He said: "I will be with you always". Come wind, come

weather; come High Priest, come prison; come sorrow, come joy, Jesus would be with them 'in spirit' to give them strength and guidance.

"He wasn't there again today.
I wish, I wish he'd stay away . . ."

There were plenty - the Jewish and Roman authorities - who shut their eyes and tried to pretend that the Resurrection hadn't happened. This man who had Risen from the dead threatened them. He showed up their hypocrisy, cowardice, refusal to face facts, and above all their intolerance.

There are many today who have shut their eyes to the presence of the Risen Jesus and who don't wish to see Him in Anderstown and Bogside, in Jerusalem and Szigon, in Moscow . . . yes, and in Marston . . . and wish 'He would stay away' from them. But sooner or later we shall meet the Risen Jesus. We may even meet Him today.

"As I was going up the stair,
I met the Man who wasn't there.
I knew I couldn't turn away
And offered him my heart today".

May I wish you all a triumphant Eastertide.

John N. Ramsey

Vicar and Rural Dean.

ESTIMATES FREE SMALL BUILDING
WITHOUT OBLIGATION WORK AND
DECORATING

**COOPER
AND MILLS**

ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS

ALL TYPES OF
ELECTRICAL
INSTALLATIONS
REWIRES, ETC.
RING CIRCUITS, ETC.
ELECTRIC CENTRAL
HEATING
STORAGE HEATING
OXFORD 61320

V.C. WHITE (MARSTON) LTD.

Family Butcher

17 SALFORD ROAD

TEL. 43177

Confectioners
Stationers
BAXTERS
Tobacconists

Tel. no. 42123

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT
C W MILLARD
OLD AND NEW
CUSTOMERS WELCOME

KIBBY'S

WE
DELIVER
ORDERS
groceries
provisions
tel. 47011

Marston Rd. P.O.
Old Marston Rd.

RESURRECTION — TRULY PRESENT

Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and I am life". John 2 v 25 NEB

Jesus said: "Mary!" - Mary of Magdala went to the disciples with her news. "I have seen the Lord!" John 20 vv 16, 18

April 2nd was the celebration of the triumphant feast of Easter at St. Nicholas. The old church looked resplendent with superb arrangements of white and yellow spring flowers, shrubs and new green willow twigs, declaring the hope and joy of the resurrection of Jesus.

The Easter garden was beautifully arranged with pink and mauve flowers, to suggest, perhaps, the depth of suffering Jesus accepted before the empty tomb declared to the wondering disciples the truth of His promise - that He would overcome the worst that man could do and return still with His great burden of love for mankind, and each of them in particular.

What does the Resurrection of Jesus say to us today? We may accept the witness of the disciples as to the facts in the past and their adjustment to them. We may hope for a life beyond death for ourselves and those we love - and yet what of the present? Facts for the past, hope for the future - and the present?

NEWSNOTES

After strong representation by the Parish Council and the Marston Residents Association the Curators of the University Chest have dropped their objection to the provision of a footpath from the end of Arlington Drive to connect with the existing path leading to the University Parks. Many people have asked for this link to be incorporated in the new estate. Those who come to live here will benefit from this most convenient route to the Parks right on their doorstep.

- - - - -

The City of Oxford Motor Services have been urged to consider restoring the service to the old part of the village on Sundays and after 6 p.m. on weekdays by diverting some of the No. 12 buses. Bullington R.D.C. are giving helpful support on Marston's behalf.

A suggestion is also being put forward for more bus stops in Marston from Ferry Road/Cherwell Drive.

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

Only experience in a personal way of an encounter with the risen Christ can make resurrection a reality here and now where it touches us.

Mary Magdalene met Him when blinded by the tears of grief He called her name. Peter met Him fishing, two others when He started a meal with them, and Thomas when he thought through the impossibilities of His resurrection.

We meet Him daily as we are recreated by His living spirit from the numerous deaths we must inevitably suffer to self in our developing relationship with Him.

As we live through suffering, shattered relationships and heartbreak, we change, but somewhere along the way He meets us, and the quality of life thereafter is enriched by His risen presence and we in a sense experience resurrection from the death of spirit that had previously held us in submersion.

Thus we journey onward towards perhaps the most inevitable of all deaths - our own physical death. At this point our developing relationship with Jesus expands into a new dimension and we become free to go living with Him in a continuing full friendship.

Resurrection not just past and future, but truly present.

M.E.C.

ST. NICHOLAS A.G.M.

The Annual Church Meeting will be held in the Church Hall at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, 25th April.

The new Electoral Roll will be presented at this meeting and comes into operation on 26th April. If you have not already applied, please sign a form without delay and place in the box in Church.

Parish Outing

"GODSPEL"

AT THE WYNDHAM THEATRE, LONDON

WEDNESDAY, 26TH APRIL

Coach leaves St. Nicholas Church at 6 p.m.

Seats: £1.20 Coach: 60p

Contact: Mr. J. A. Whetham
20 Haynes Road.
Tel: Oxford 49017

MORE HISTORY

IN MARSTON

Have you had a walk around the village lately? Have you looked at our inheritance - our lovely 12th century church? Yes, it has been restored several times lovingly by those who consider its testimony worth keeping.

Built of rich honey-coloured Headington stone, it has retained its colour and texture by careful restoration in 1956.

Even a cursory look will show that the east wall leans outwards; as too, from the inside, do the chancel arch pillars. This is due to subsidence, but they are considered safe since being strengthened in 1956.

At this time too, the tower, dating from the 15th century, was strengthened. The tower is of simple design and is as seen in other villages of Oxfordshire and Berkshire. Two storied with low unadorned battlements it gives the impression of solidity and permanence. It commands a good view of Oxford on a clear day across the University Parks. It too has its place in history, offering the only high vantage point amid the water meadows and marshes for Oliver Cromwell, Lord Fairfax and others to observe the Royalist troops encamped in Oxford.

Within, the church exhibits various styles of architecture. The oldest parts, the chancel arch and the seven arches of the nave, are of the Transitional and Perpendicular periods, dating with the south door from the time of Henry II or Richard I. The low round pillars supporting these largely inadorned arches suggest a Norman influence in construction.

The plain glass clerestory windows were built when the nave roof was raised in the restoration of the 15th century. It was at this time that the tower and new chancel were added.

Apart from architecture there are other points of interest. Amongst these are the Hagroscope or Squint allowing people in the south aisle to see the Holy Table. The Jacobean pulpit, the ancient Housling table and the Piscina still in working order.

PARISH MEETING

At the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14th March, 1972, following the Parish Council Meeting, concern was expressed about the degree of parking of vehicles on verges in the area. The police have been asked to take steps necessary to stop this practice.

Come in sometime and look around. If you are interested the Vicar will show you the ancient Marston chalice, the oldest in use in England. Given by one G. Skydmore, who died in 1478, it is mounted in three talbot dogs and stands 5 $\frac{7}{8}$ inches high. It was made originally as an ordinary household drinking cup and so epitomises our real belief that the life of Christ, given symbolically at the Holy Communion, reaches us where we are in the world and not when we try to be something special.

CHRISTIAN AID

GRAND JUMBLE SALE

SATURDAY, 13TH MAY

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH HALL AND
SCOTT HUT

PLEASE SAVE ALL YOUR JUMBLE FOR US
Details of Collection in next Issue

The Miracle

And she knew, as I know, and you know,
... and you ... and you,
That Death had no claim on Him;
The Devil had no way with Him,
The Lord of Life; the Giver of Light;
The Only Begotten Son; the Christ!
And she fell on His feet and cried
"Master!"

As I cry, and you cry . . . and you
. . . and you.

For the miracle forever happens -

Forever He is crucified;

Forever the mocking cry, "If Thou be
Christ?"

Forever the Resurrection;

Forever the clear call, "Mary."

Forever the glad cry, "Master!"

From her . . . from me . . . from you.

(From Faith at Work U.S.A.) Amen.

HARDWARE PET
ELECTRICAL FOODS
GOODS

E. SMITH

7, Salford Rd. 42776

FOR YOUR NEW OFFICE JOB

TEMPORARY or PERMANENT

FULL-TIME or PART-TIME

try **office overload**

38 Queen St Oxford
Telephone 46298

SWIMMING IN MARSTON

Summer seems to have come suddenly this year, but judging from our usual variable climate it is quite likely that winter will have returned by the time you read this edition of the "Marston Times". Despite this perhaps pessimistic view, earnest preparation is going ahead at St. Nicholas School to have the new learner swimming pool cleaned out and ready for the first "swim in" of 1972.

The heating system, now completely installed, will allow a much longer swimming season this year and the warmer water should give greater confidence and encouragement to the smaller and less hardy children. The Parent/Teacher Association, which has raised something like £1,400 to date for this project, hopes in the very near future to erect changing accommodation adjacent to the pool.

In case you don't remember, summer 1971 was pretty indifferent weatherwise, yet there were nearly 2,000 admissions to the pool during August. We look forward to another happy swimming season and when the School closes for the summer holiday we hope all parents who can spare the time, will help once again in running the pool.

WINE & CHEESE

Two hundred and forty people from Old Marston joined the Wine and Cheese Party which launched the Christian Stewardship Campaign. It was an enjoyable evening with good food organised by Mrs. Weeks of the Jack Russell. We chatted and met many new people who we didn't even know went to St. Nicholas Church! We heard about the needs of our Church financially and in manpower. Many people resolved that this social occasion should be repeated to 'meet the people in the pew next door' and involve many more in the working life of the Church.

Perhaps you could help with the Christian Aid Jumble Sale! Contact Margaret Cahill, Oxford 65878 if you could.

marston wives

A successful afternoon Tea, Bingo and Buy Sale was held in February and despite bad weather and power cuts the gathering was well attended. The profit from the Sale was £12. Many thanks to all who supported this occasion.

Meetings start again on 12th April with a Fashion Show at 7.45 p.m. in the Church Hall. We extend a warm welcome to all members and friends.

B.J. NORTON
Newsagent Tobacconist
Confectioner
Stationer
Salford Road
TEL 48932

Come Dancing
Children's Classes
MON, THURS, FRI.
Adult Classes FRI 8pm
MORTIMER HALL

L.E.H. HAYLE
VILLAGE STORES
Post Office
TEL 49668

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

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

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

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

V.G. STORES
DISTRIBUTER C.R. HAYNES
Grocery & Provisions
6 CHERWELL DRIVE

Christian Book Centre
TEL 47567
57A ST CLEMENTS

MICHAEL
hair fashions
16 CHERWELL DRIVE
TEL 63842

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

LESTERS STORES
Grocery & Provisions
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK - 730
BUY YOUR COLOUR T.V. AT
W. R. HAMMOND & SON LTD.
tel 47706 404 Marston Rd