

Marston times

PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT NICHOLAS

TURL TREND...

I like Turl Street. It is narrow and interesting. It has bookshops, like the Turl Cash Bookshop, with its winding stairway, where you can often pick up a book at a cheap price on some strange subject, which perhaps interests you and few other people. There's Jesus College, where Lawrence of Arabia was a member, and Lincoln College through whose doorway a young man called John Wesley would often pass.

Turl Street has everything to offer, from Indian curries at the Taj Mahal (Do the undergraduates still lift the door off its hinges on bump-supper nights, I wonder?), to cameras, clothes and good walking shoes. Walters of the Turl is world famous, and, of course, there's the Mitre at the end. And talking of mitres, Turl Street has often been called a living symbol of the Church of England. It goes from the 'Bread' to the 'High', passing 'Jesus' on the way. A bit cynical? Perhaps, but it reminds us that too often Churchmanship has been more important to some people than Jesus.

Thank heavens that for so many people, issues like this, which have been dying for years, are now almost dead. When Mervyn Stockwood, now Bishop of Southwark, and one time Vicar in Bristol and then in Cambridge, was asked about the question of High and Low Church, he replied: "When I was in Bristol, I ate my fish and chips off

the News of the World. When I was in Cambridge and dining at High Table, I ate them off a silver salver. The most important thing was the FISH AND CHIPS!" Perhaps we need to re-assess what is important.

As one of the young curates said to us recently at a Deanery Synod, the great question many young people ask when they see what we spend our time on in Church meetings is "What has all this got to do with Jesus?"

There's one shop in Turl Street which sells most exotic garments for young people . . . kaftans, and leather hats, and tunics from Morocco. It has enormous brightly coloured beach balls in the window. It's called 'Turl Trend'.

I hope the trend of the Church will not be to pass 'Jesus on the way', but to centre on Him. For when Christians begin to do this, begin to read their New Testaments again, a lot of that which seemed important hitherto will fade into insignificance, and we shall begin to grapple with the really big problems of human nature, world hunger, and racial oppression.

John N. Kennedy

Vicar and Rural Dean.

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FROM THE SCILLIES

The Rev. W. Rowett moved from St. Martin's-in-the-fields, in the very heart of London's West End, to be Chaplain to the Isle of Scillies. He describes his work in his present parish - which is the most Southerly and the most Westerly in the British Isles.

In many ways there is a great contrast here from the heart of London, though we don't seem to be any less busy. For one thing, there are six churches, two on the main island and one on each of the other inhabited islands, and the work has to be shared with only one curate: in fact for three months last winter we were without a curate. Although there are only 2,000 permanent inhabitants, about 100,000 visitors come to the islands in the course of each summer, including a surprisingly high proportion of church-goers. The Chaplain is also expected to give two illustrated lectures each week to the visitors, on the History and Natural History of the islands.

There is a fairly strong Methodist community and a small Roman Catholic community with whom we have had several combined services and activities in the past two years, and increasingly close relations.

We are in the 'front row of the stalls' for all the Transatlantic events: Sir Francis Chichester and Sir Alec Rose both passed close to us, and many of the single-handed yachtsmen. Out lifeboat is a specially busy one.

One interesting feature of the work has been visiting the men on the light-houses and lightship. I was stranded on the Bishop Rock Lighthouse for twenty-eight hours last June while a Force 8 gale blew itself out! I tried to make myself useful, pumping water and lighting the lamps - and watching the Wimbledon tennis on T.V. in conditions wonderfully free from interference. In September there was another eventful day on the

Trinity House vessel "Stella", which included a Committal Service near the Bishop Rock, a Harvest Service on board the Seven Stones Lightship, and the relief of the Wolf Rock Lighthouse. I was put ashore at Penzance and flew back by helicopter, but we were prevented from landing by low cloud and had to return to Penzance for the night. It was one of my slide-talk evenings, but my wife carried on in my absence, with the aid of a tape-recording. And the Primary School had a holiday from their Scripture class next morning! At the time of writing I am waiting for weather conditions to improve so that I can take the keepers on the Bishop Rock their Easter Communion; I attempted it last Wednesday, but it was barely possible to land the mail then!

We sent a large consignment of flowers to an East End Parish for Mothering Sunday. This entailed a day's work on my wife's part visiting twelve flower farmers for their donations, and finishing at the house of our People's Warden, himself a flower farmer, where we packed and boxed and labelled the flowers, and then drove to the quay to load them into the boat.

We have, sadly, lost a lot of good friends this past year, three of them through drowning accidents. In a sea-bound community like ours, one is always conscious of the need for care and safety precautions.

(Our thanks to the Rev. W. Rowett and to the Editor of St. Martin's Review Monthly for giving permission to use this article)

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We offer a warm welcome again to the Rev. Don and Mrs. Sheila Sparkes, who will be living with their family at the Vicarage during the Vicar's absence on holiday in August (3rd-24th).

Mr. Sparkes will be taking the services during this time. Please spare him unnecessary parish business as he will also be taking a holiday during this time.

For all urgent matters, please contact Miss O. J. Lodge, 5 Elsfeld Road, (approached via Mill Lane). Phone 4,7956. If Miss Lodge is not available contact the Vicar's Warden, Mr. V. C. Cardy, 110 Staunton Road, Headington. Phone 61116.

As most people know, Marston is the home ground for Mr. Sparkes, as he grew up in this area and attended St. Clement's Church as a boy.

St. Nicholas Youth Fellowship

All interested in the formation of a Christian Fellowship for those who have been confirmed are invited to the Vicarage on Tuesday, 5th September at 8.15 p.m. to discuss future plans and prospects.

God's Acre

Either last month's article on Yoga, or the gentle charms of Peter Sheppard, resulted in a good response in tidying up the Churchyard. It's even rumoured that the ground was so smooth a local bowling team mistook it for a green!

Well done, to all who put in such hard work, not forgetting the members of Harlow School who came and spent a day's hard work on God's Acre.

Parish Council Notes

In response to the Parish Council's representation, the City of Oxford Motor Services Ltd., have re-routed the No. 10 bus service in the evenings to include Old Marston Village. (Times of buses are given in this edition).

The Parish Council have been notified of a proposal to increase the speed limit on the Marston Ferry Road, (approximately between the two schools), to 40 m.p.h. They have asked the County Council to provide traffic markings at the junction of Boults Lane.

The plank swing in the Old Recreation ground will be replaced and a rockingboat and a small roundabout are to be provided. This work will start after April 1973.

Best wishes to all going on holiday this month. May you have travelling mercies.

We also wish our Scout Troop (43rd St. Nicholas) all the best as they go to camp on 15th August. Congratulations to the Parents' Committee on getting them a new van to transport them on their journeyings!

vacancies

The Choir of St. Nicholas, Marston is second to none in the Deanery and at Parish Communion sings a different anthem each week. At the recent Festal Evensong, on the departure of Debbie Havill and Clare Rimmer, the choir sang introit, specially composed for the occasion by our Choirmaster and Churchwarden, Albert Sidebottom.

There are now two vacancies; for an alto and a soprano. Those who apply must be able to read music, and be prepared to attend regular practice, which lasts for an hour on Friday evenings. On special occasions extra practices are held. Anyone interested should contact Mr. A. W. Sidebottom or Mrs. E. Garner, with a view to a voice test.

HEDGES

Hedges were in the news recently at a recent meeting of the Preservation Trust and despite the pleas from Sir Basil Blackwell, Sir Douglas Veale, Dr. Bruce Campbell, and those from our own parish, some of our hedges are due to be uprooted. What a pity! Hedges are the natural habitat of so much wild life, and it is far easier to uproot a hedge than to restore the bird life to our Marston area. It is hoped that there will be a re-think over this matter.

Congratulations, anyway, to the authorities on the magnificent bank of poppies on the new Marston Ferry Road - a joy for all daily commuters!

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FROM THE QUALITY bus changes

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Monday to <u>a.m.</u>	7.08	7.32 7.51	Monday to <u>a.m.</u>	7.35	8.22 8.53
Friday	8.09	8.28 8.51	Friday		
Saturdays <u>a.m.</u>	7.32	8.28 8.51	Saturdays <u>a.m.</u>	8.06	9.11
Then each	at 28 and 51 minutes		Then each	at 20 and 53 minutes	
weekday	past the hour until		weekday	past the hour until	
	5.51 p.m. and 6.21 p.m.			5.53 p.m.	

TIMES FOR NO. 10 BUS TO LEAVE OLD MARSTON VILLAGE

Service 10			Service 10a		
To Cowley Centre via Headington			To Cowley Centre via Carfax		
Weekday <u>p.m.</u>	7.24	8.39 9.54	Weekday <u>p.m.</u>	6.57	8.12 9.27
evenings	11.09		evenings	10.42	
Sundays <u>a.m.</u>	10.59	12.27	Sundays <u>a.m.</u>	10.25	11.35
	<u>p.m.</u>		<u>p.m.</u>		
	1.11	2.24 3.39		1.03	1.59 3.12
	4.54	6.09 7.24		4.27	5.42 6.57
	8.39	9.54 11.09		8.12	9.27 10.42

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