

JANUARY

FREE

Marston times

PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT NICHOLAS

"THE COURAGE TO BE..."

"... I have got the remains of 'flu on me, and am not in a fit state to judge my own past, present and future. I know that I should thank Heaven for all the blessings that have been showered on me. But it is now evident that I have not been a successful man but a failure, and this owing to lack of courage".

So wrote Harold Nicholson in his fascinating Diary at the end of 1948, (Fontana - Diaries and Letters 45-62, 75p). I hope that you've not got 'flu at the beginning of this New Year.

I'm sure that most of us would agree that we've lacked courage at times during the past year. Paul Tillich wrote a book which he called: "The Courage to Be". Most of us feel the need at times for courage to speak out, or to act as we feel. How often we fail! An old friend of mine often used to say: "there's more harm done through weakness than wickedness".

Where then are we to find courage in the days ahead? It may be we need the courage to face the future with impaired health. It may mean that, through bereavement or tragedy, we have to face the future alone.

It is possible that we are the shy, retiring sort of person who feels he makes little impact on the world. . .

One of my favourite texts which I commend to you at the beginning of 1972 is this one from 2 Timothy 1.7.

"God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind".

Here is the source of that 'courage to be', which will lift us from the sense of failure to that of purpose in life.

May God bless you in 1972.

David R. Ramsay

Vicar and Rural Dean.

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THERE MUST BE AN ANSWER

About fifteen years ago I preached at an evening celebration of the Holy Communion in a north country market town on a Maundy Thursday. It was a fine evening and I remember watching the shops close in the square and groups of people making their way towards the various churches and chapels in the town. Then, a quarter of an hour before the service, all the church and chapel doors opened and processions of Christians began to make their way out of them to the Parish Church for the breaking of the Bread of Life. It was a deeply inspiring and quite unforgettable act of witness to their determination to work and pray together for unity.

I am told quite often (rather too often, to be candid!) that nowadays there is not the same degree of ecumenical enthusiasm as there was fifteen years ago. And I just don't believe it! Many of our parishes are working closely together with christians of other denominations; many of our churches are gladly lent to Roman Catholic congregations, so that they may have a place to worship in, where

they have no building of their own. But I think we are all a little impatient that it takes such a long time to heal wounds and mend breaches, and we are certainly suffering from a sense of frustration that the mills of synodical government grind so slowly. Above all I believe that many of us are unsure of the part we ought to be playing in the process of healing divisions. We should love to do something if only we knew what!

I suggest that when the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity comes round at the end of the month, you put up a notice on your church door, "Gone to the Methodists" (or the Roman Catholics, or to the nearest neighbours) and invite them to study this problem with you during 1972. Which reminds me to wish you all a very happy New Year, and to say what a privilege it is to be your Bishop. You have all given me so much friendship and joy during the last nine months that I feel quite at home now wherever I go in our three counties.

From the Bishop of Oxford's Quarterly Letter - January 1972.

NEWSNOTES

UNITED SERVICE

ON 20TH JANUARY AT 7.45 P.M.

AT

ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH
NEW MARSTON

Free Churchmen, Roman Catholics and Anglicans are warmly invited to join in this joint witness during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

FENCE OR CULVERT?

The controversy over the type of fence to be erected alongside the brook between the two schools entered a further phase recently. The Thames Conservancy Board were impressed by the weight of public opinion voiced at a recent meeting and agreed to look into the cost of providing a culvert for the brook.

A further meeting is planned to decide if the necessary funds could be made available once the price is known.

SAFETY OF CHILDREN

In view of the pressure from local residents the Chairman of the Parish Council has agreed to include on the agenda of the Parish Meeting which is to be on 11th January, 1972 at 7.30 p.m. at St. Nicholas School, the whole question of the safety of children going to and from the schools.

We are indeed fortunate in Marston to have a Vicar with such a lively sense of humour and spirit of fun. Many of us who know him quite well were expecting a practical joke on 4th December at the Bazaar. However, Stephen Rimmer, a student auctioneer and estate agent, took us all in beautifully with an excellent western-ised Emur of Tabag! Congratulations Steve, and to the Vicar for such good stage managing!

The Bazaar was a great success - £277 so far.

A big thankyou to everyone who helped in anyway. Here's to next year!

marston wives

Mrs. Tigger Stack of Oxfam will give a talk on the work of "Mother Teresa of Calcutta" at the Parish Overseas Evening on Wednesday, 19th January.

OVER 60's CLUB

Due to the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Weekes, the Jack Russell has contributed more than £85 to the Over 60's Club in the past year. This is being used for outings and towards their Christmas Party.

'Phone Mr. P. Sheppard: Oxford 46294
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Marston Times

'EVER BEEN HAD?'

Roads of Marston

'Happy New Year!'

The names of many of Marston's roads are very unromantic. As with most places they are descriptive as to their direction. For instance Oxford Road was once the main road through to Oxford. It has recently been supplanted in this by the new Marston Ferry Road. The latter derives its name from the punt ferry across the river from the Victoria Arms and thus by footpath to Oxford.

The Northern By-pass cut straight across two of the old roads of the village, namely Elsfeld Road, the way to Elsfeld Village, and Mill Lane. Mill Lane takes its name from an old mill, obviously once important to the village, on Sescut Farm. This mill has fallen into disuse but the history behind its name reminds us of the farming background of Marston.

At one time there were three ponds in Marston, but Ponds Lane is derived from the former old village pond situated where the northern part of the churchyard is. The pond was enclosed in the 1880's by permission of the Church Commissioners and the dip in Ponds Lane shows its former level.

On the Carter Estate - built on drained water meadows, there are a variety of names. Raymond Road and Haynes Road serve to remember Raymond Haynes, of an old Marston family whose wife, Myra Haynes, lives in Cross Farm.

Mortimer Drive, as most people know, is in memory of the Rev. John Mortimer, a former well-loved vicar and patron of the village.

Cromwell Close and Fairfax Avenue are distant memories of the civil war and Marston's part in sheltering the Parliamentary forces.

Do you know why your road is so named? Perhaps it will be in our next instalment!

'GIVE PEACE

A CHANCE!'

O Lord make me an instrument of Thy peace:

Where there is hatred, let me put love,
Where there is resentment, let me put forgiveness,

Where there is discord let me put unity,
Where there is doubt let me put faith,
Where there is error let me put truth,
Where there is despair let me bring happiness,

Where there is sadness let me bring joy,
Where there is darkness let me bring light.

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

AT THE GATE OF THE YEAR

"I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown'. And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way'".

M. Louise Haskins

The Editorial Staff of the Marston Times wish a Very Happy New Year to all their readers and advertisers. Thank you for your continuing support.

We should also like to thank the Marston Wives and Mothers' Union for their generous offer to distribute the newsheet in the new year.

electoral roll revision 1972

The Parochial Electoral Roll (not the Electors List) has not been revised since 1919. It is to be revised early in 1972. This qualifies you to vote at the Annual Church Meeting, and to elect Churchwardens.

If you live outside the parish it also gives you the right to be married in St. Nicholas Church or to have your baby christened there.

All those who are at present on the Electoral Roll of the parish will be asked to make a FRESH application to remain on the Electoral Roll, whether they live in the parish or not. Any members of our church who are not already on the Electoral Roll should make sure that they too apply to have their names included.

This revision will take place in all the parishes throughout England and applies to all baptized members of the Church of England who are 17 years of age or older.

The Electoral Roll Officer is:
Mrs. H. Starmer-Smith, Barns Wall,
Ponds Lane, Old Marston.

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Our Green and Pleasant Land

Most people probably have views on what should be done with the green and pleasant land around us, but few ever have an opportunity of a say in the matter. But for once, local members of the Oxford Preservation Trust have. They were asked by the Executive Committee to draw up proposals for the conservation, planting, landscaping and use of the tongue of open country that stretches from the Northern By-pass right into the heart of Oxford at the University Parks and is bounded by the built-up areas of Marston and North Oxford to east and west. Needless to say, they jumped at the chance, and a small group of them spent many hours tramping the fields, meeting, discussing, writing and drawing. The result of all this activity was a seven-page report and large map.

Since they felt the matter to be of more than local importance, Marston Area Committee called a meeting to find out what landowners and representatives of other amenity bodies, as well as their own members, thought of their proposals before submitting them to the Trust. This meeting was held in St. Nicholas Church Hall on 8th November and between thirty and forty people were present.

Discussion was lively, not least when the Vicar said he liked wires as they provided a perch for migrating

birds! Although, as in this case, there was difference of opinion on detail, it was gratifying to find that most people were whole-heartedly in favour of the principle of the report, "that the main value of this land lies in its continued availability for casual enjoyment". Some of the Committee's suggestions for how this should be done were: extensive conservation and planting of trees and hedges; controls to prevent Marston Ferry Road becoming too much of a nuisance; the reversion of Trust land to pasture; measures for the protection of wild life; and the drawing up of a code of practice to which it was hoped landowners would subscribe.

Perhaps the liveliest discussion concerned the proposals for improving the network of footpaths in the area, and, in particular, making them as safe as possible where they cross the road.

The Committee found the meeting very helpful and have passed on the report to the Trust, and now await events. They are already planning to embark on a similar scheme for the old buildings of Marston, Elsfeld and Wood Eaton, in the new year.

Anyone interested in joining the Trust, or wishing to learn more about its work in Marston, is invited to get in touch with Phyllis Nye at 13 Mill Lane (Telephone: Oxford 42446).

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