

JUNE

FREE

Marston times

PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT NICHOLAS

NEVER HEARD OF IT

Well, that's what St. Paul might have said about the term "Trinity". You see, you won't find it anywhere in the Bible. Then why use it at all? "We say TRINITY" said St. Augustine, the great Church Scholar, "because we can't keep our mouths shut!" What he meant was that in the face of growing heresies which minimised some parts of the faith, and exaggerated others; which lopped off a bit here, and stuck on a bit there, it was necessary to make up a 'package' term, which would preserve the truth for disciples in the years to come.

The Englishman has always resented someone who has tried to force a block of dogma down his throat. He knows that it only gives him spiritual indigestion.

Now although volumes have been written about the doctrine of the TRINITY, the last thing that Augustine wanted, and great scholars like Athanasius, who staked his life and reputation on this, was that Christians in years to come - AND THAT MEANS YOU AND ME - would be offered a watered-down Christianity or an intellectual riddle.

What they wanted us to have was a three-fold experience, such as they themselves had known, and which the Apostles had passed down to them. They wanted us to know

God as Father and Creator
God as Saviour and Lord
God as Holy Spirit and Guide.
And just as the human personality is made up of the Memory, the Will and the Understanding; just as you cannot take away one side of a cube without destroying the whole, so they used the word TRINITY to hand onto us a 'faith that works' in a threefold dimension.

D'you find the idea difficult to grasp? I hope so, for God is greater than our finite minds. Nevertheless the humblest charlady can know in her life as much about the love of God as the most learned professor, for the word TRINITY has preserved for us all the threefold experience of the Gospel.

God bless you all.

John N. Rumbold

Vicar and Rural Dean.

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FIRST THINGS FIRST

A Japanese sergeant was found recently on the island of Guam, where he had been hiding for 28 years rather than surrender. If you had found him, what would you have done? No doubt you would have given him a square meal and a bath and shave; but most urgent of all, you would have told him the news "The war is over! Peace has come; the whole world has changed all round you; you need not hide, but you can be free; come out and enjoy your freedom!" Later, you might want to help him in other ways, rehabilitation, psychological re-adjustment, and so on; but first you would tell him the glorious news of peace, everything else follows from that.

The Church is being urged today to do many good things, and a surprisingly large number of Christians in Oxford are involved in good causes of all kinds. This is right. But is there some danger, sometimes that help may stop there, on the physical level leaving the basic spiritual needs unmet? This would be tragic, because the deepest need of all men everywhere is to know the Peace of God, and to enjoy the life of freedom that follows. The death of Jesus Christ

on the Cross, and his Resurrection, have brought peace between Man and God; the whole human situation has been changed by it; Christians really know this good news; so the most important thing they can do for anyone anywhere is to tell them, in such a way that they can understand and accept it, and enter into a new life of peace and freedom.

St. Luke (9.1-2) tells us that when Jesus sent out his disciples, he gave them power and authority to overcome all the devils and to cure diseases, and sent them to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. Those orders basically still stand for us in the circumstances of modern technological society. Men and women need physical help, but they can benefit from psychological counsel-line, and so on; and the Church should give these where it is needed. But only Christians really know and understand the tremendous news of the victory that changed the world and so they have a special responsibility to proclaim it in all possible ways. If they don't, nobody else will! That is what the Church is for.

By The Rev. Arnold J. Lee,
Vicar of St. Andrew's Oxford

OVER SIXTIES

As we go to print nineteen members of the Over 60 Club are in Eastbourne for their annual week's holiday. Congratulations to Mrs. Tomlinson who has arranged it all.

COME IN NO.6

Well, that's not what Roy Jones shouts, but on 18th June, when our sixth bell is dedicated at Evensong he'll be there to see it comes in at the right time. So do come along and see and hear what our local ringers have paid for through their own efforts . . . and that's £502 over the sixteen years!

If anyone is interested either in using or helping with a creche during the Parish Communion at 10 a.m. on Sundays, would they please contact Mrs. J. Foster, 14 Quarry High Street, Headington, (Tel. 63358), or Mrs. J. Whetham, 20 Haynes Road, Marston, (Tel. 49017).

SCHOOL OF PRAYER

A School of Prayer, organised by The Mothers' Union, will be held on Thursday, 8th June, at St. Nicholas Church. All ladies welcome.
Speaker: Sister Brigitta. CSMV
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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Parish Council Notes

Complaints had been received of obstructions on the path between Marsh Lane and Peasmoor Piece. The Council had pointed out that this was a bridle path and had asked Bullingdon Council and the County Council to deal with this matter.

The Parish Council has asked its sub-committee to consider the provision of more amusements for children at the old recreation ground. The Council would be pleased to receive any suggestions about this. They should be sent to the Clerk to the Council, or to any Council member.

Housewives Communion

A special request has been made by some Marston Wives for a monthly Communion on a weekday. The first will be on Tuesday, 6th June at 9.15 a.m. Of course, anyone can come along, and it is hoped that this time will suit some who find it difficult to come at other times and would like to come on a weekday.

GOING UP

Like Elliston's lift, the Church Fees for weddings and funerals have gone up. From 1st June the Parochial Fees Order 1972 becomes statutory law, and most items are doubled. The new table of fees will be posted in the Church porch and incumbents have been asked to conform to this throughout the Diocese.

Some of May's Highlights

CONFIRMATION

Congratulations to all those confirmed recently at St. Nicholas Church. The Bishop preached to a packed congregation and the Church was bursting at the seams. As some were away at Kilvrough with the school party, they were confirmed later at St. Andrew's, Headington, by Bishop Loveday.

OXFORD BOYS

It was sad that they lost after getting into the finals, but how well they played!

A good deal of their success can be shared by Garry Kimber, who unfortunately tore a ligament and could not play in the final game. Hope the leg's improving, Garry!

CHRISTIAN AID

The Jumble Sale showed a profit of £101.20 and the door-to-door collection £101.50. Congratulations to the Organiser, Mrs. J. Foster, for such a successful effort, and thanks to all who gave and worked so willingly.

HARLOW SCHOOL IN WALES

Forty-six Third Year pupils and Miss Snow, their Geography teacher have just returned from an exciting fortnight at Kilvrough Manor, enjoying the gorgeous Gower Beaches and their surroundings.

"Horrible" was the description of the weather until the sun eventually came out for the last few days of their stay.

None the less they enjoyed a very mixed programme which included two days at Oxwich Bay for a marine biology study to clear the sand dunes of litter - a ten mile walk in wet and cold over Cefn Bryn to return like drown rats - visits to Swansea Docks, Llanelli Steel Works and Pennard Castle, finding their own way with maps and compasses - a walk across to Worm's Head with the usual rush to return to the mainland before the tide came in - and, of course, there was the final night party with dancing, games and plenty of food.

Our Correspondent says: "Now I'm back I wish I was still in Wales. The fortnight went very quickly and I enjoyed nearly every minute of it. Given the chance I would willingly go again if my feet could stand the punishment!"

(Heather Quartermain)

best kept village

"Hey there!"

"Who? Me?"

"Yes, you dropped that crisp packet! You see we're entered for the Best Kept Village Competition, and Mrs. Bing will be on our tails if we forget and don't use the litter bin. So, please help, will you?"

"Sure . . . By the way, is this your tissue? You dropped it!"

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MAN IN THE MINISTRY

CONVERSATION PIECE WITH THE VICAR

Trinity Sunday (28th May) was Ordination Sunday for many men. We sent our Reporter along to interview the Vicar about his own ordination.

Reporter: "I understand, Vicar, that this year you celebrate 21 years as a priest in the Church of England".

Vicar: "That's right. I was ordained priest in Bishopscourt Chapel in the Isle of Man in St. Barnabas Day, 11th June, 1951. Of course, four of those years were also spent as a Presbyter in the Church of South India".

Reporter: "What made you offer for ordination in the first place?"

Vicar: "Strangely enough, although I was born and brought up in a Rectory, I vowed that I would never be ordained. All I wanted to do was to fly an aero-plane. I did think seriously at one time of making a career in the Fleet Air Arm".

Reporter: "What changed your mind?"

Vicar: "Well, after the war ended I became redundant as air-crew and I didn't fancy staying in the Navy without any flying, so I made tracks back to Oxford".

Reporter: "You were up at Oxford before you joined up?"

Vicar: "Yes, I came up to Jesus College during the war on a short course, during which I was a part-time undergraduate and a part-time sailor. After a brief spell in England I began basic flying

training at Bunker Hill, N.A.S. Indiana, and ended up doing advanced flying at Corpus Christi, Texas, where we flew over the Gulf of Mexico".

Reporter: "What did you learn in the forces that helped you in your ministry?"

Vicar: "Firstly, I learnt the value of a sense of humour. No-one has a greater sense of humour than the average matelot! Secondly, I learnt a lot about mixing with people. I learnt to appreciate the sheer solid goodness of men who would never have fitted within the theological category of "Christian". Thirdly, I learnt that to appreciate life, there must be an element of risk about it.

When life has elements of danger about it, then you being to appreciate so many things that up to that time you've taken for granted".

Reporter: "Many people say that their time in the services destroyed their faith. Why did this not happen in your case?"

Vicar: "Well I tried hard to keep my end up as a Christian in the services. It wasn't easy and I proved the power of prayer a number of times when things were difficult. However, there was a reaction after I returned to Oxford. Then I went through a 'blank' period. I had to rethink and relay many of my Christian beliefs which I'd always accepted without thinking".

Reporter: "We've nearly run out of space, Vicar. Can you come back again next month?"

Vicar: "I'll be glad to do so . . . if the readers can stand it!"

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