

MARCH

FREE

Marston times

PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT NICHOLAS

"Your Money AND Your Life"

"My wife's always asking me for money . . ."

"Really?"

"Yes, she asked me for a fiver on Monday . . . and then she asked me for a fiver on Wednesday."

"Good heavens!"

"Then she asked me for a fiver again on Friday."

"What on earth does she do with it?"

"Oh she doesn't do anything with it. I haven't given her any yet."

It's an old chestnut, but it has its parallel in the reaction of many people to the Church always asking for money.

One of the troubles is that we've never learnt to give in the Church of England. The Church has been 'laid on', so to speak, and many people have got the mistaken idea that it receives money from the State. The truth is it doesn't receive a penny from the State.

What we've got to do is to get back to the Biblical standard of giving, which is a regular portion of our income allotted for God. The Biblical standard was a tenth, but the Christian is not bound by legalism. For some it may be right to give a tenth, or more, but for most people the 'modified tithe' is the answer. By this we mean that, taking into account certain heavy and necessary expenditure, e.g. mortgage, education, etc., we put aside a definite and regular portion for God and the work of his

Church. It often surprises people when they take time to work it out, how little they give to God in comparison to what they spend on, say, T.V., sport, holidays, clothes, records, etc.

We're launching a Christian Responsibility or Stewardship Campaign in the Parish on 24th March at a Wine and Cheese Party in St. Nicholas Primary School Hall at 8 p.m. We're sending out invitations to Church of England families in the Parish who have a link with the Church, but if you don't receive one and would like to hear more, please ask for one.

The Campaign is a corporate venture and a number of people have been working hard behind the scenes to prepare for it. It's not a 'gimmick', nor are we trying to 'con' you into something. We just believe that St. Nicholas Church stands for something intensely worthwhile, and we believe that the Gospel is Good News too, and that to spread it here and overseas you need men and women, and money and resources. And above all, we believe that anything we attempt will collapse unless it is undergirded with prayer . . . your prayer.

(By the way, just in case you're worried, someone believes this is so worthwhile, they're paying for the wine and cheese!)

James R. Russell

Vicar and Rural Dean.

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WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY?

By the Reverend Robin Anstey, former Vicar of St. Andrew's, Headington

There are two senses in which we can use the word "responsible".

When a teacher sees a broken window pane and asks "Who is responsible for this?" he means, "Who is the offender? To be responsible in this sense usually means that one is liable to punishment."

On the other hand, a teacher will sometimes describe a boy or girl as a "responsible youngster". And that means that the young person in question is capable of acting with care and forethought and consideration for others.

Those who have anything to do with Marriage Guidance soon come to realize that responsibility is a vitally important factor in the man-woman relationship. When a married couple has problems, the instinct of each partner is usually to blame the other. "He's always out late at the pub". "She's always nagging". "He's so mean with money". "She's so extravagant". In other words, each is trying to pin responsibility for the problem on the other.

What is needed, in matrimonial as in other problems, is not to allot responsibility but to accept it. This means a change in attitude: a change from saying, "It's all his/her fault!" to saying, "What can I do about this relationship? How can I be responsible for the happiness of my husband/wife?"

And surely this is the change we need to undergo if we are to make any sense of the most baffling problem

of all: the problem of undeserved suffering.

Traditionally, Christians have approached this problem by asking, "Whose fault? We can't blame God, because he is by definition perfect. It must be our fault, or the Devil's, or the system's."

I venture to say that there is no way through the problem on these lines. We must learn to ask, "Who is responsible? Not in the sense of "Who is to blame? but, who can be trusted to deal with the problem? And when we put the question in these terms, the answer is obvious: we can trust God to deal with the problem because we can see him doing it in Jesus Christ."

When the disciples saw the blind beggar, they asked Jesus, "Who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" (Whose fault was it?). And Jesus replied, "Neither this man sinned, nor his parents, but that the works of God might be manifested in him". (John 9). In other words, you are asking the wrong question. The disasters of this life are nobody's fault. They are opportunities for God to bring good out of evil through the self-sacrificing love of the Son of Man.

On the Cross we see God accepting responsibility for our human condition, meeting pain and failure and rejection and transforming them into glory. This is the victory of faith, and in the long run it is the only victory worth winning.

'local news'

The Parish Council are trying to persuade the University Chest to permit an access from the development in Fane Road to the Bridle Path at the back of Arlington Drive

Have you seen the pheasant in the fields bordering on the Marston Ferry Road?

Advance Notice

"Candida" by Bernard Shaw will be presented by the Marston Players on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 6th, 7th and 8th April, at 7.30 p.m. in the Mortimer Hall

STEWARDSHIP DATES

5th March: 10 a.m. Inaugural Service
19th March: 10 a.m. Commissioning of Visitors
24th March: 8 p.m. Stewardship Gathering at St. Nicholas Primary School

SPECIAL SERVICES

MOTHERING SUNDAY - 12TH MARCH

11.15 a.m. Special Service for Parents and Children

PALM SUNDAY - 26TH MARCH

10 a.m. Miss Joan Mallalieu of CMS speaks at the Parish Communion
4.30 p.m. "Meet our Missionary". Miss Joan Mallalieu at home at the Vicarage. All welcome.
6.30 p.m. Evensong, with extracts from Handel's Messiah

MAUNDY THURSDAY - 30TH MARCH

7 p.m. Holy Communion (Communicants of other denominations most welcome)

GOOD FRIDAY - 31ST MARCH

10 a.m. Special Children's Service
11 a.m. United Service

'INDIFFERENCE'

"When Jesus came to Golgotha they hanged Him on a tree, They drove great nails through hands and feet, and made a Calvary, They crowned Him with a crown of thorns, red were His wounds and deep; For those were crude and cruel days, and human flesh was cheap.

When Jesus came to Marston they simply passed Him by, They never hurt a hair of Him, they only let Him die; For men had grown more tender, and they would not give Him pain, They only just passed down the street, and left Him in the rain.

Still Jesus cried "Forgive them for they know not what they do!" And still it rained the wintry train that drenched Him through and through; The crowds went home and left the streets without a soul to see, And Jesus crouched against a wall and cried for Calvary".

(with apology to Studdart-Kennedy)

'Thank-you'

Thank you so much for all your good wishes. I know that the thoughts and prayers of so many friends in the Parish and beyond has carried me through these past few weeks, and I am more than grateful to everyone. I hope to be back in Marston before very long and look forward to being in the Parish once more.

Olive J. Lodge

STOP RUSHING!

JAPANESE VERSION OF THE 23RD PSALM

The Lord is my Pace-setter, I shall not rush. He makes me to pause and rest for quiet intervals; He provides me with images of stillness which restore my serenity. He leads me in ways of efficiency through calmness of Spirit, and His guidance is Peace. Even though I have a great many things to do each day, I will not fret, for His Presence is here, His timelessness: He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of my activities.

By anointing my mind with His oils of tranquillity my cup of joyous energy overflows. Surely harmony and usefulness shall be the fruits of my hours for I shall walk at the pace of my Lord, and dwell in His house for ever.

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MORE ROADS IN MARSTON

People and historical memories of long past fields dominate the second instalment of the history behind the names of the roads in Marston

Jessops Close and Clays Close, in the new development off Marsh Lane recall the past, when each field bore the name of its owner, or of some particular peculiarity associated with it.

In another part of the parish, Jewell Avenue commemorates the tenant of the "furlong" worked by him in the 1600's and was taken from a map of the field system in Marston in 1603.

Elms Drive and Cherwell Drive are ever present reminders of the abundance of elm trees in the area and the winding river which gives character to the water meadows and parkland through which it flows.

Marsh Lane similarly explains itself and emphasises with the name of Marston itself, Marsh town, the former nature of the area before development.

Gordon's Close recalls Miss Gordon who was a benefactor of the village, and Broughton Close remembers the family who used to live at Court Place Farm.

Fane Road was so called in memory of Major Fane, one time Chairman of the Bullingdon Rural District Council.

Yet other benefactors of the parish were the Ripplington family, hence Ripplington Drive. They left £1,000 to the Church School, £1,000 to the Church and yet another £1,000 to Marston Charities, for the benefit of the poor of the parish. This money is in Government Consuls and the interest is now dealt with by Marston Church Charities.

Our thanks are due to Mr. Jennings and some of the older inhabitants of Marston for the names in this issue, and to Mr. Alun Jones for the research behind the previous article.

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Hands across the Cherwell

We are all probably aware of our neighbouring parishes to the south and south east, namely New Marston and Headington.

We know less perhaps of our new neighbours to the west, along the Marston Ferry Road. Here is another St. Andrew's Church, built in 1906 in response to local pressure for an evangelical Church of England in the north Oxford area. The boundaries of the parish are from the Marston Ferry Road to Bardwell Road, and from the Banbury Road to the Cherwell.

Many of the regular members of the Church actually come from outside the area but are drawn by the nature of the worship.

Apart from services on Sunday, there are active groups meeting through out the week. They too, like St. Andrew's, Headington, operate a Fish Scheme to help those in need in the parish.

The Vicar, the Rev. Arnold J. Lee, formerly a missionary in China and Malaysia, has been at St. Andrew's for 2½ years and is particularly interested in the world mission of the Church.

We hope to have an article written by him in a future edition of the Marston Times.

FLYING DOCTOR

Our Emergency Unit is as busy as ever, with the usual sprinkling of interesting cases. Since our last newsletter we have had a hunter mauled by a lion, six small children in Moyale severely injured by a plastic bomb which they had found while playing, and a resident of Kenya who tangled with a Buffalo. Unfortunately there has been no noticeable decline in the automobile accident rate. Our latest rescue of this nature was of some employees of the Medical Research Laboratory. These men were working on the cholera epidemic in North Horr.

(Extract from a newsletter from the East Africa Flying Doctor Services)

Dr. M. Wood was one of the pioneers in the development of this service, whose mother, Mrs. K. Wood, wrote an article in our last issue.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Local Branch of the TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD meets at the Mortimer Hall on the second Monday of the Month at 7.30 p.m.

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