JUNE FREE

marston times

PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT NICHOLAS

The Allegro Is Here

That's the name of the latest Austin car. "The new driving force from Austin", as the handout describes it. "One of the most promising designs the British industry has yet produced", writes John Langley, the motoring correspondent of the Daily Telegraph. Allegro has a Hydragas suspension system that is revolutionary. The car 'rides on gas' which absorbs shock more efficiently than the old system. It has a 'quartic' steering wheel which is entirely novel in shape.

Allegro in music means 'merry', i.e. quick, lively, bright - a good name for a new car which looks as though it will capture a big market at home and overseas.

As I listened to the smart young car salesman, explaining the qualities of the new car to interested enquirers, I was impressed with his enthusiasm and honesty.

As he spoke one felt that he really believed that Austin had produced 'a new driving force'. When he pointed to the Hydragas unit, he made one feel that here was something really 'revolutionary'. "Just have a ride in the car, sir" he said, "and you'll see for yourself".

I can't help feeling that we need something of this 'Allegro' enthusiasm in the Church. Would the newcomer to Christianity, who had heard the Good News of the Gospel for the first time, find a Christian 'merriness' in Church?

Would he feel any 'revolutionary quality' about the way Christians live and work together?

Would he sense a conviction amongst church members that makes them so enthusiastic about their faith that they say to those who are looking for a purpose: "Just make the experiment of faith, and you'll see for yourself".

June 10th is Whit Sunday, the day when Christians celebrate the release of the power of the Spirit in a new way upon the Church . . . 'the new driving force' from God . . .

Recently in all denominations there has been a developing awareness of the 'life-giving Spirit' Who comes to us to give the Church, and each one of us individually an 'Allegro' quality.

I believe that the Holy Spirit longs to give the Church a 'new look'. He is creative and original. He is the source of inspiration behind all that is beautiful in art, and literature, and music. He is behind all our honest seeking after God, and He leads us to the Truth in Christ. He lifts us out of our despair. He helps to make our prayers effective. He is the source of all true caring. He is the Spirit of Joy and peace.

Allegro is here! Yes indeed Whit Sunday reminds us that the Spirit is the 'new driving force' available for all men today and every day.

Paul N. Rimmer

Vicar.

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THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST

By John Foster

Before ascending to his Father in Heaven, Jesus assured his disciples: "I am with you always, to the end of time". Strange words from one who was, to all appearances taking his leave and returning to the heavenly home where they would be unable to see and touch him. Why not rather "Until we meet again, when I come in the clouds with glory . . ."? Yet the disciples, who had witnessed the power of the resurrection, must have known that Jesus would fulfil his promise. And how wonderful that fulfilment was! For on that first Whitsun, as the house where they were gathered was vibrant with wind and flame, the Holy Spirit, descending from Heaven, filled them, body and mind, with the love and power of Christ. That was almost 2000 years ago; but the Spirit has remained, indwelling those who accept Jesus as their Lord. So Jesus himself, though ascended beyond the confines of space and time, is still present in the world, living his life through his followers, giving his strength in place of our weakness, his love in place of our selfishness, his peace in place of our anxiety. As St. Paul expresses it figuratively, we who have individually received the Spirit of Christ are corporately the Body of Christ, of which Jesus is the head and each of us members united in a common purpose. As members of his body he relies on us to do his work: the only hands he has on earth are our hands, the only feet, our feet. But to do his work effectively we must, as those first disciples, be filled by his Spirit, so that we are purified in our inner being and empowered to live his life in the world. How can we serve him if we keep his Spirit locked away in a tiny compartment of our lives, only to be brought out for religious exercise on Sunday? That would be, in a sense, to keep Christ nailed to his cross. Rather let him reign within us in his risen power!

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 1973

We've done it again!! This year's total is yet another record! The House-to-House collection raised the splendid total of £152 (a 50% increase on 1972) and the Jumble Sale £102 - including £7.94 from the cake stall, £8.30 from the raffle and £4.20 from teas. So £252 has been sent from the parish.

To those who worked so hard, and to all those who gave so generously, we would like to say "Thank you".

In addition Mark Smith and Paul Ray ran their own Jumble Sale and raised £6.61 to go specifically to aid the drought areas of India. Well done.

QUIZ

1. Where is the Government Arrow to be found on the external fabric of St. Nicholas Church?
2. Where can you find small crosses carved on the churchyard wall?
3. Where would you find a Housling Table in St. Nicholas Church, and why is it so-called?
4. When were the nave and north aisle last re-leaded, and how much did it cost?
5. How old is the side Chapel and what is the technical name for the Canopy over it?

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LOOKING BACK

By Bernard Oliver

Thank you to so many who have wished me well in my retirement and to say what a joy it is to have time to stop and chat when out on my constitutional. Although I still tend to work to the clock out of sheer habit it would be foolish not to admit there are moments when I can relax and reflect on the many activities in which I have been privileged to take part during my thirty-seven years in Marston. The rapid and vast development makes it difficult to recall the period immediately prior to and after the war.

It was in 1937 that the Rev. John Mortimer, who was then Vicar, asked me if I would help in the choir, and upon saying that I could not sing (no doubt the present congregation realise I still fall into that category), he replied that he was sure I could make a noise which was all that the others did - so I took my place in the choir stalls. We were kept in some resemblance of tune and timing by the Vicar exasperatingly striking loudly on his dulcima. What a contrast to our present choir! After an absence on Active Service I rejoined that noisy band of choristers - my apologies to the juniors, there are no adults still living.

By this time the houses were springing up rapidly and each Christmas we tramped round the parish carrying hurricane lamps, harmonium and handbells, under the direction of the late P. C. Brain, who lived after his retirement at "Cranmer" opposite the Church.

Our final call on the last night was always at Alan Court. Here we were invited inside by Mrs. E. Wood. After rendering carols both vocal and on handbells in front of a log fire, we enjoyed hot mince pies and cider. Perhaps I should mention that after the juniors had been sent home about 9 p.m. the adults retired to lubricate their throats at the White Hart or Bricklayers Arms, and so it was that returning home along the Oxford Road we lost the organist in the ditch (of course only momentarily!).

It was in 1952 when I succeeded Mr. George Gunn as People's Warden and Treasurer that I had to take my Church life more seriously. The Vicar's Warden at that time was Mr. Priestly, a learned scholar of 87, while I was a young man in my thirties. the income of St. Nicholas was about £200 per annum and money was very urgently required for a major restoration involving some £10,000. In 1953 the late Professor Vincent Harlow succeeded Mr. Priestly as Vicar's Warden and I had the privilege to serve with him until his sudden death in 1961.

Each of those years we held our summer fete, the hard work being well rewarded by the community spirit that existed, and so as I look back over twenty or more years, I wonder how many in 1993 will recall the time in 1973 when they helped to redecorate St. Nicholas and say it was hard work but well worth it for the community spirit that existed.

DATES

JUNE

6th: 11.30 a.m. Bishop of Oxford celebrates Holy Communion at St. Nicholas Church and licences Diocesan Women Workers.

10th: WHIT SUNDAY
Preacher at Evensong: the Rev. Roy Akerman, Area Secretary of the Church Missionary Society.

Youth Fellowship meet at the Vicarage after the service.

14th: 7.30 p.m. Holy Communion at St. Nicholas for Cowley Deanery Synod members.

16th: 7.30 p.m. St. Nicolas Cantata. Choir and Orchestrs. Admission by Programme only.

18th: Over 60's Club to Bournemouth.

20th: 3.30 p.m. Christening Party (If wet in Scout Hut).

21st: Mothers' Union Supper Party.

27th: Marston Wives Supper Outing.

SAINT NICOLAS

A cantata

by

Benjamin Britten

Solo tenor: Robert Lowrie

Choir of St. Nicholas County Primary School

St. Nicholas Singers and Orchestra

Conductor: Albert Sidebottom

SATURDAY 16TH JUNE 1973

at 7.30 p.m.

St. Nicholas Church, Old Marston

Admission by programme, obtainable at the Church or at St. Nicholas County Primary School

THE MARSTON YOUTH CLUB

Readers will remember that the Youth Club was re-opened in March on slightly different lines, mainly by restricting membership to Old Marston Youth, increasing membership fees and introducing membership cards.

We now have the nucleus of a successful club.

The new session starts in September on Wednesday evenings.

Many thanks to you Mac. for your help, but other helpers are still needed, especially anyone who can demonstrate an interesting subject such as Make-up, engineering, etc.

We hope the community is interested in this project for their youth.

Parish Council Notes

PARKING

In response to the representation of the Parish Council concerning parking in Boults Lane, the County Council have now published details of a twenty-four hour no waiting restriction on both sides of the Lane for much of its length.

ANNUAL MEETING

The May meeting was the Annual Meeting of the Council. Mr. A. Gammon was re-elected as Chairman.

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. A Government (Survey Mark) Arrow is to be found on the lower stonework of the tower, to the left of the Church porch, on the South-facing wall.
2. On the external wall surrounding the churchyard - S.E. corner - opposite the Church Hall entrance.

   Some people think they may be 'talisman crosses' cut by travellers after a safe journey to or from London.
3. The Housling Table is in the sanctuary and is used as a credence table. It was one of the original benches against which people knelt, before the use of a Communion rail. Housling comes from the Anglo-Saxon 'hustling', which means 'food'.
4. The nave and north aisle roof were re-leaded in 1966 at a cost of £3000. The roof had become prematurely thin through the action of the gas heating which had created carbonic acid and destroyed the lead.
5. The Chapel was restored in 1965 and designed by Kenneth Wiltshire. The technical name for the canopy is a 'Tester'.

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