MARCH FREE

marston times

PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT NICHOLAS

"FOR CHRIST'S SAKE !"

That's the title of the Wednesday Lent Talks and Discussions for the Marston Churches.

We hope that you'll all roll along to them . . . or to as many as you can.

They'll take place in the Halls of the various Churches, and they're open to everyone, whether Churchgoers or not. We've not been denominational in our choice of speakers. We've just chosen the people whom we think are most competent to speak on the topics chosen.

Here they are:-

14th March

Christ in the Family - Speaker to be announced

Marston Road Congregational Church Hall.

21st March

Christ in the Factory - George Flint

St. Nicholas Church Hall, Elsfield Road, Marston.

28th March

Christ in the School - James Cobban

St. Michael and All Angels School, New Marston.

4th April

Christ and Colour - The Rev. Leonard Schiff

St. Joseph's School Hall, Headley Way, New Marston.

11th April

Christ and the Homeless - Rev. Fr. Daly

Marston Road Congregational Church Hall.

The meetings will start at 7.30 p.m. and end promptly at 9 p.m. There is no charge, but a plate will be in evidence to cover expenses.

This is the first time that such a United Lent Venture has taken place and we hope that the talks and discussions will help us all to work more closely together.

Again, we welcome anyone who would like to join us. If you have difficulties about transport, please inform your local minister and we'll see what can be done.

Lent is the time for Spring ploughing and it's a good time to plough up our prejudices and fixed positions.

These talks are designed to make us think, and to think widely.

So do join us and bring your friends.

Paul N. Rimmer

Vicar.

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JEALOUSY

A third article in the series by Mr. M. G. Harris

"Possession is nine points of the law", or so we are told. This is possibly quite true but possession, when carried to the extreme, becomes possessive. We can be possessive about a possession to the exclusion of all common sense. A man can be so possessive regarding his wife, for instance, that he can force her through one way or another, to forgo all her friends, acquaintances and even relations. This may be the extreme but it is by no means uncommon. Jealousy is the force behind possessiveness.

One can be jealous of almost anything or anyone. Frineds, relations, children, possessions, it matters little where jealousy is incurred. It can be the cause of the breaking up of marriages, families, partnerships, for where there is jealousy there is mistrust. For years we had standing on the fireplace shelf a text which read: "If we worry we do not trust. If we trust we do not worry".

If one is of a jealous nature it can be very difficult to fully trust others. The slightest action or merest word can be blown up out of all proportion and the results of this can be far reaching.

The wife of Isaac in the Bible favoured her 'younger' son Jacob in preference to her elder son Esau. Because of this Jacob became jealous of his elder brother and through his mother's connivance, by various means tricked his brother out of his birthright and eventually out of the father's blessing always given to the elder boy. This may not seem much to us these days but the result was that Jacob was forced to flee from home to escape the anger of Esau and was absent from his home for a great number of years. He never saw his father again and whilse he was away must have lived in fear of retribution.

Jealousy can turn us away from friends and loved ones, and can be the source, or one of the sources, of Hell on earth for a great many people. It causes endless worry and misery to those with whom we are deeply involved. It brings pain and anguish to loved ones, which may never heal.

It is a narrow road to Hell, but a sure one for all that.

Rural Dean No Longer

On the recommendation of the doctor and after consultation with the Bishop, the Vicar has resigned as Rural Dean of Cowley and also from a number of committees on which he has been serving.

It is hoped that with the easing of the burden of added responsibilities his health will soon improve. He will, of course, continue as Vicar of Marston, but with fewer extra-parochial commitments.

THE MARSTON YOUTH CLUB

It is hoped to re-open the Youth Club in early March, on Wednesday evenings at 7.15 p.m. in the Mortimer Hall.

It has been necessary to re-organise the Club and due to lack of space only Old Marston Youth are eligible for membership.

Membership will cost 25p for one year plus 10p entrance fee. A membership card will be issued.

There is still a shortage of helpers and anyone who feels able to come along, for instance, once a month, will be most welcome. Please 'phone 46294.

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Parish Council Notes

WEIGHT LIMIT OF LORRIES

The National Association of Local Councils drew the attention of its members to a suggestion to increase the weight limit of lorries on British roads from 32 tons to 40 tons. It suggested that if the Parish Council thought this unreasonable they should support the views of the Association and write direct to the E.E.C. Commission for Transport in Belgium.

The Parish Council decided to so support the Association. The Clerk remarked that this was the first time within his knowledge that the Parish Council had addressed any communication about its own interests to a foregin country.

PARISH MEETING

Marston electors are invited to attend the Parish Meeting at St. Nicholas School at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 13th March.

The meeting will discuss the possible improvement of street lighting in Marston. It is also hoped that the new Rating Valuation Lists will be available then for public inspection.

The Annual Parish Meeting is the electors' opportunity to ask questions and to make comments on the Parish Council's programme and policy for the village.

WINE & CHEESE PARTY

SHROVE TUESDAY

MARCH 6th.

Wine and Cheese Party for all members of the Parish and their friends at 8 p.m. at St. Nicholas County Primary School Hall.

Admission 20p Please pay at the door

R.S.V.P. now to the Vicarage (Tel. 47034) or sign the list in the Church

We'll be seeing you!

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday, 2nd March

Special local service at the Marston Road Congregational Church.

Speaker: Deaconess O. J. Lodge.

All ladies welcome.

marston players

The Marston Players regret that they have had to cancel their production of "Sacred Flame" planned for March.

APRIL FIRST

Greeting cards and special wrappings of chocolates for Mothering Sunday may be new, but the keeping of the middle Sunday in Lent for this purpose certainly isn't. This Sunday was set aside as a break during the penitential period. Not a break from fasting because in the West the Church has never fasted on a Sunday.

It was the custom to give servant girls a holiday on this day to allow them to visit their mothers. They traditionally took with them a gift - a rich cake called a Simnel cake (Simnel from the fine flour from which it was made). Now our gifts are more varied, but are usually flowers, and we - at least in this part of England - eat a Simnel cake, which contains a layer of almond paste, on Easter Day.

Mothering Sunday 1973 falls on 1st April. The custom of sending people on fool's errands on this day prevails throughout Europe. A victim in France is called an "April Fish". Authorities disagree on the origin of this custom. Reasons suggested range from the habit of performing, near Easter, a passion play depicting the trial of Jesus and stressing the sending of Him from Annas to Caiaphas and from Pilate to Herod and back, to the changeability of the weather at this time of the vernal equinox. Probably the most correct is that it is derived from old Celtic customs whose origins are lost.

No doubt all mothers will hope that their children will pay more attention to it being Mothering Sunday than April Fool's Day.

I. R.

Mothering Sunday

All parents and children will be very welcome at the special service for this Sunday. Do come along to St. Nicholas Church on 1st April at 11.15 a.m.

ALEC NOT ALBERT

Of course we all know that his name is Alec and not "Albert" Gammon, as we mistakenly put in last month's Marston Times.

Our apologies to the worthy Chairman of our Parish Council.

Alec Gammon commenced ringing at St. Andrew's, Headington in 1928. He became a member of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers on 1st January, 1932 and the Oxford Society of Change Ringers in February 1933. This is the Society which rings for the Cathedral and special ringing days for the University. He has been Secretary and Treasurer of St. Nicholas Tower Ringers from 16th February, 1948.

READING WITHOUT TEARS

"They won't come to a dance, but they'll turn out like this to a meeting about reading". This puzzled remark was overheard in the Primary School when about 120 people attended a meeting in February on the "Teaching of Reading".

There was an exhibition of books and reading games and schemes of reading used in both infant and junior departments.

At St. Nicholas School I work with those children in the Junior School who have not mastered those reading skills which are "so easy when you know how!"

Why do these children fail? It may be for one of various reasons. A very small percentage fail because of some physical disability such as poor hearing, eyesight, brain damage or low intelligence. Some children are unable to learn to read because they have such a very limited experience of language spoken in conversation.

So often we expect them to be able to decipher strange symbols for words which they never use.

One of the most helpful ways that a parent can help a young child is to talk with him and to read to him. If you try to teach him to read a book before he is ready, you are making his first experience of reading one of failure.

Games to differentiate between left and right, nursery rhymes, letting him follow the words as you read the story, are all better than teaching the names of the letters of the alphabet, which may cause confusion with the sounds he will learn later.

Our ultimate aim is for every child to read for pleasure and with understanding. If your child finds reading difficult he needs lots of encouragement where he does succeed. Try not to bribe him or criticize, or compare him with an older brother or sister, for this will only enforce his feeling of failure.

In conclusion here are a few tips on helping your child to read:-

1. Don't let the T.V. stifle your family conversation.
2. Join the library and make sure you read yourself.
3. Play games and read stories.

And lastly, encourage and don't nag.

J. R.

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