MAY FREE

marston times

PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT NICHOLAS

Letter from Kidlington

"During the past few weeks we have been hearing more and more about the massive crisis in Maharastra State in central India", writes Oliver Simon from Kidlington, the Oxford Co-ordinator of Christian Aid. "In fact the devastation has been critical for five months now - and all we've heard about is cricket! 160 million lives are at risk - children especially. David Smithers (Christian Aid Administrator) has said that the Indian Government forecasts that TWENTY MILLION people will DIE between now and October if the rains fail again in June and July".

He also reports that in some regions 80 per cent of the cattle have already died. Temperatures at present are in the 120s, and people were dying of sunstroke, as well as malnutrition and thirst.

Hydro electric stations are running at a fraction of normal capacity. Factories are closing, throwing people out of work. Food prices have shot up, and people have sold all their possessions. Even the money lenders now had no money to lend.

How can we help? A minimal aid programme would need £100,000, and this would be absorbed in a week. The need is for equipment for blasting and drilling holes in the baked ground, to buy cattle, tractors and seed.

There has never been such a widespread drought since records began in 1800.

Every week the post brings numerous appeals for help from charitable organisations. Many have to be thrown into the waste paper basket, for there is a limit to which one can appeal to people. The drought in India is, however, something of catastrophic dimension. The need is immediate.

How can we help?

We can help with the House to House Collection from 14th-19th May. We can send Jumble for the Sale on Saturday, 12th May in the Church Hall. We can give sacrificially NOW.

This is not just an appeal for money. This is an appeal to our Christian compassion. I would be failing in my responsibility if I did not draw your attention to it. When we do what we can for the needy in this drought-ridden area, we are ministering to Christ. When we do nothing, we are really turning our back on Him.

"For I was hungry and you gave
me food.
I was thirsty and you gave me
a drink . . ."

And when we realise this, we cannot plead: "Lord, when did we ever see YOU hungry, or thirsty . . . and fail to look after you?"

Paul N. Rimmer

Vicar.

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CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 1973

Changing the life of the poor

It has always been the business of the Church to change human lives for the better - and not by conversion alone.

When the Church pioneered in education and health it did not teach children to read only the Scriptures, or nurses to tend only Christians: it saw illiteracy and ill-health as handicaps to human fulfilment. Ignorance and disease are as capable of crippling the spirit as of crippling the mind and body. And both are by-products of a poverty which degrades more people than it ennobles.

So, having founded schools and hospitals in Britain and, through the missionary societies, taught the younger churches to do the same overseas, the Churches today are now engaged in a variety of world-wide activities whose aim is to raise the living-standards of the poor.

And because in poor countries the indigenous churches share the poverty of those whom they would serve, they cannot fulfil their duty to their neighbours unless their meagre resources are strengthened from outside.

To strengthen them for that task is the purpose and policy of Christian Aid which, spanning denominational divisions, brings the combined resources of church people to bear wherever the needs are greatest. This does not make poor men rich or fill the hungry with good things, but because Christian Aid money is used by local Christian organisations on self-help schemes, trade training, food production, medical and welfare services, it does enable the lame to throw away their crutches and the sick to roll up their beds and walk. Once on their feet they have a chance to find their own way to maturity - physical, economic, political and spiritual.

In Christian Aid Week, which this year is 14th-19th May, church people in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland are requested - and equipped - to go out into their local communities and to campaign for public support. All congregations are asked to play their part through their local Christian Aid Committee.

Marston Can Help

Marston has always supported Christian Aid Week nobly. 1973 will surely find us equally generous. Please keep the envelope which will be left with you and fill it in readiness for when the collector calls during the week 14th-19th May.

On Saturday, 12th May there will be a Jumble Sale in the Church Hall and Scout Hut, commencing at 2.30 p.m. Please support this by letting us have articles in reasonable condition and coming along on the day and spending generously.

In addition to the Jumble Sale there will be a cake stall and contributions for this will be gratefully received.

If you would like to give your help beforehand or on the day, please contact Helen Foster, 14 Quarry High Street, Headington, Tel. 63358, or Peter Sheppard, 4 Raymund Road, Marston, Tel. 46294.

JUMBLE SALE AND CAKE STALL

SATURDAY, 12TH MAY

AT 2.30 P.M.

IN ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH HALL
AND SCOUT HUT

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Recipe for Happiness

Take:-

1 pair of legs
1 willing pair of hands
1 good heart
A sense of humour

Mix well together and take them to the Church Hall on a Monday afternoon. Place them in the Over-60's Club and allow them to cut sandwiches and prepare teas for Marston's older folk. The result will be gratifying to all concerned.

To add an extra special flavour add 1 car regularly. This will enable members of the Club who find difficulty in walking, to come to the Club and to return in comfort.

For further advice on how to improve the recipe, apply to the Over-60's Club Secretary, Mrs. W. Tomlinson, 35 Oxford Road, Old Marston.

BRADLANDS

"I sometimes think I could write a book about a day here", said the Warden of "Bradlands", one of the two sets of accommodation for senior citizens in the Parish.

Sixteen flats, with one or two people in each, are at Bradlands, and independence is very much the aim of all the residents. Many of them well into their eighties still do not need any assistance to keep their flats spotless, although the home help service is a boon to those who find the top shelves hard to reach. "Meals on Wheels" calls too, but again many prefer to cook their own good midday meals.

Nearly at the end of Mill Lane, its a long way to the shops, but the local tradesmen all collect orders and deliver.

They have their own common room if they wish to socialise, or they can cross the road and join their neighbours at Cumberlege House. But for most of the time they are where they want to be - behind their own front door, with their own things about them, amusing and looking after themselves in the way that they wish. There is, however, just the added comfort of knowing that the warden (a qualified nurse) can be fetched by pressing the emergency bell above their bed, and will call daily to chat if they feel like it, or if not just pass the time of day. What a worthwhile job these wardens do!

Ascension Day

THURSDAY, 31ST MAY

7.15 a.m.)
10.30 a.m.) Holy Communion

7.30 p.m. Evensong and Sermon

Memories of Childhood

We are grateful to Mrs. Haynes, Senior, of Church Farm for these prayers which she says she learnt as a child and has never ceased to use:-

Morning Prayer

Almighty God, I thank Thee that Thou hast taken care of me
Through the past night, and that I am alive and well this morning.
Make me remember that Thine eye is always upon me;
Help me to keep my heart pure and unselfish.
To those pastors and teachers whom Thou has set over me, grant Thy Holy Spirit,
And enable me to live as I pray for Christ's sake. Amen.

Evening Prayer

Almighty God, I beseech Thee to forgive what Thou hast seen wrong in me today.
Wash away my sins with the precious blood of Thy Redeemer, that I may sleep in peace.
Bless my dear parents, relations and friends.
Grant to them all that is good for their souls and bodies.
Comfort and relieve the sick.
Have pity on those who never pray and turn their hearts.
Now I lay me down to sleep:
Take my heart into Thy care for Christ's sake. Amen.

Mrs. Haynes tells us that she was one of the first confirmation candidates to be confirmed in All Saints Church, Highfield.

County Councillor's Surgery

Robert Weir, your County Councillor, will be available at the Village Hall Marston (Mortimer Hall), between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Thursday, 10th May, 1973 and will be pleased to meet anyone who may wish to contact him.

Parish Council Notes

It is the Parish Council's responsibility to maintain the Highway trees, and each year it makes any necessary replacements. These trees would very much benefit by receiving a bucket or two of water each week, and it would be very much appreciated if any near-by neighbour would supply this.

OVER 60's CLUB

The Over 60's Club raised £86 at their Easter Monday Morning Market. Thankyou!

ROGATION SUNDAY - 27TH MAY

6.30 p.m. Over 60's Club invited to Evensong and Refreshments afterwards

SAINT NICOLAS AT ST. NICHOLAS

On Saturday, 16th June at 7.30 p.m. there will be a performance in Marston of Benjamin Britten's cantata "Saint Nicolas". It is particularly appropriate that this concert will be held in the Church of Saint Nicholas. Although the spelling is a little different, the subject of the cantata and the man to whom our Parish Church is dedicated are, of course, the same - Nicolas, Bishop of Myra, Patron-saint of children, seamen and travellers.

The life of Nicolas and many of the legends associated with him are vividly portrayed in this music which Benjamin Britten wrote in 1948. The work is scored for tenor solo, choir and orchestra.

In this performance, the part of Nicolas will be sung by Robert Lowrie and in addition to the main four-part choir there will be a gallery choir of children from St. Nicholas County Primary School. The orchestral accompaniment is strings, percussion, piano-duet and organ, and will be provided by students from the Royal College of Music, London. The conductor will be Albert Sidebottom.

As there will be about 80 people taking part in this performance, there will not be a great deal of room for a large audience. Admission will, therefore, be by programme only. The programmes will be on sale through the Church and St. Nicholas County Primary School, from about 21st May.

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

marston wives

DR. BARNARDO'S COLLECTION 1973

Mrs. G. Wells would like to thank very sincerely the Collectors and all who kindly gave to the above Organisation. The sum collected amounted to £21.30 and this has been forwarded to Dr. Barnardo's.

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