OCTOBER FREE

marston times

PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT NICHOLAS

THE VILLAGE – LOCAL OR GLOBAL?

As I left the ward I noticed the staff nurse on duty was a Malaysian. A Pakistani passed me pushing a meals trolley as I walked along the corridor. At the entrance to the hospital two Spanish cleaners were chatting. A West Indian collected by fare on the bus, and as I got off at the bus stop I saw a group of students . . . Italian, American and German waiting to get on.

How true Marshall MacLuhan's phrase is that the world is now 'a global village'.

Every village has its problems. So does the 'global village'! "Heath's Dublin Talks Fail" was today's sad headline but at least the two ministers were talking and not fighting. The senseless bomb outrages are a pathetic commentary on the bitterness and hatred of two national groups, who no doubt claim to be Christians, yet cannot solve their differences in a Christian way. And another say aspect of the affairs in Ireland is that the bitterness of the fathers is being handed on to their children. That is why such efforts as those made by Patsy Sumpter and her friends to entertain the children - both R.C. and Protestant - from the trouble spots in N. Ireland, and give them a holiday in Oxford are so worthwhile. For the Christian is committed to the task of peace-making, and of changing enemies into friends.

October 4th marks the Feast of St. Francis. We would do well to make his prayer our own:-

Eternal God, the Father of all mankind:
We commit to Thee the needs of the whole world.
Where there is hatred, give love;
Where there is injury, grant pardon;
Where there is distrust, restore faith;
Where there is sorrow, renew hope;
Where there is darkness, let there be light;
Through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

And when we pray for peace in the 'global village', we can do no better than begin living the idea of peace locally . . . in our homes, in our work, in our Church, and wherever we are . . .

Paul N. Rimmer

Vicar.

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

Sunday Services

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
10.00 a.m. Parish Communion
6.30 p.m. Evensong

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stop !

The last article in the series by Mr. M. G. Harris

Well there it is. Envy, jealousy, pride, other gods. Four ways which will certainly lead us to Hell - whether it be the Hell on earth or the Hell after death. These ways are sure and certain. They can be long or short in length but the duration of Hell will be for ever. It is easy to get onto any one or all of these ways but because we are on them there is no reason why we should stay on them.

Balaam was a young and ambitious seer who had everything before him. He was asked by the king to curse the Isrealite invaders but Balaam was uncertain what to do - to curse or to bless Israel. He eventually went along with the king and rode his donkey along the way to curse the invaders. But, we are told, the angel of the Lord sent and stood in a very narrow place. Balaam, like so many of us, failed at first to recognise the signs. His donkey refused to go forward and true to form he 'set about' the beast. However his eyes were opened and he saw the angel and realised, after the angel had spoken, the error of his ways. The crisis of his life had come and he had to make up his mind what to do. Should he face God and come to terms with God or turn tail and go to destruction?

To give Balaam credit he humbly confessed his sin. He was wrong and it takes a man to admit his mistakes. He asked forgiveness, and he was forgiven. This is the point where for Balaam the road changed and it is the place where we can get off the way to Hell. We have had our eyes opened to our errors as Balaam had his eyes opened. We, like Balaam should be man enough to recognise that we are wrong. We should be man enough to ask God to forgive us and set our feet on the right way. Balaam made a fresh start. So can we. Balaam went on to a new life in God. So can we.

As there is a Hell on earth now and also after death later so there is a Heaven on earth and in the life to come. It surely is far better to attain (or try to attain) the Heaven after death, which must be preferable to Hell, and in doing so achieve the Heaven on earth. We are not promised a garden of roses. Indeed the way will still be hard and difficult but life will be far better for our taking the Way to Heaven rather than the Way to Hell. Go to Hell? Not on your life!

Young Civil Servant and Student wife require accommodation. Please telephone Oxford 46294 or Goring 2664

Football in Marston

Nobody who goes near the Boults Lane recreation ground in the evenings can fail to be aware of the tremendous amount of time and enthusiasm that goes into the running of our local football teams. Last season a new under 10 team was formed and was christened the Midgets. Although it is closely associated with the Saints, it is separately financed and organised. Recently they won two out of the four six-a-side competitions which they entered and they started the new season with a spectacular 10-0 victory in the Woodstock and District League. Matches are played on the Boults Lane ground at 11.00 a.m. on Saturday mornings. The only vacancies at the moment for players are for nine year olds, but supporters of any age are welcome. Ray Timms of 80 Oxford Road runs the Club and will be pleased to be contacted about it.

A good start to the season has also been made by the Saints who are now in their seventh year. The under 11 team, who are making their debut in league football, are managed by Mr. David Smith, the under 12 team by Mr. L. Goodchild, the under 13 team by Mr. D. Colwell and the under 14s by Mr. N. Waddle - all with the support of a good committee. Matches (in the Oxford Sunday League) are played on Sundays on the Boults Lane ground. The club always welcomes new members - and the support of spectators. Anyone interested should get in touch with Mr. A. J. Roberts of 26 Fairfax Avenue.

scouts

The 43rd Old Marston Scout Troop now have vacancies. Any young lad who is interested should come along on troop night, Friday evenings 7.15 p.m. The Scout Hut is situated by the Church, behind the Church Hall.

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NOTICES

Marston Wives

3rd October: Early Years at School.
Mr. Charles Brees,
Headmaster of Iffley Mead School

17th October: "The Work of a Deaconess".
Deaconess O. J. Lodge

31st October: To be announced

The Mothers Union

Meets Thursday 25th October at the Vicarage. Programme to be announced.

Evening Classes

There will be a series of evening classes in the Common Room at Pusey House on Friday evenings. They start on 19th October and the first four will be given by Donald Tayler on the subject "Why Christ?" All welcome - no advance registration needed.

'War and Peace'

On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 10th, 11th and 12th October the Peace Pledge Union will be showing a film programme on the theme 'War and Peace'. The programme will be shown twice each night at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. in the Friends' Meeting House.

marston players

The Marston Players will be performing Noel Coward's "Blithe Spirit' in the Mortimer Hall on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 8th, 9th and 10th November at 7.30 p.m. So make a note in your diaries now.

Parish Council Notes

Many of you will know already that at the last meeting of the Parish Council Mr. Alec Gammon resigned from the Parish Council. He had been a member for 18 years and Chairman since 1968. The Council paid tribute to Mr. Gammon and recorded their thanks to him in the Minutes - thanks which readers will, I am sure, endorse.

Mr. Gammon's successor as Chairman and a new member of the Council will be appointed at the next meeting of the Parish Council on 16th October.

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The Council asked the Clerk to investigate the possibility of acquiring land adjoining the burial ground in Elsfield Road for recreation purposes - a welcome addition to the village facilities if it can be managed.

HELP NEEDED !

The Marston Area Committee of the Oxford Preservation Trust is seeking help in two projects.

1. A group of members is making a survey of old houses in the village, and would welcome any information owners and others may be willing to give concerning the age or history of the houses in which they live, especially interiors and those parts not visible from the street. They would also like to see old photographs.

2. It is hoped to interest individuals and organizations, especially young people, in the formation of a corps of volunteers to clear up rubbish dumped in Back Lane and elsewhere, once a month for removal by the R.D.C.

If you would like to help in either project please get in touch with Phyllis Nye, at Alan Court (13 Mill Lane), Telephone: Oxford 42446.

Dates for the Church

Sunday, 28th October

At 10.00 a.m. we shall have as visiting preacher at St. Nicholas Church the Rural Dean of Cowley, the Rev. R.M.C. Jeffery, who is Rector of St. Andrew's, Headington and the author of a number of books. He used to be on the staff of the British Council of Churches.

RADIO SERVICE

Once again the 10.00 a.m. Service at St. Nicholas will be broadcast on Radio Oxford. This time there is a difference; the service will be recorded on Sunday, 7th October, but it will not be broadcast until the following Sunday, 14th October. On that day it will be broadcast twice, once in the morning and once in the evening so you will not have to miss Church either Sunday!

Marston W. I.

The W.I. hold their meetings in the Church Hall once a month. They would be delighted to welcome anyone who is interested in becoming a member. There are many interesting and entertaining speakers and a wide variety of activities in the movement. For particulars of membership please contact the Secretary, Mrs. M. Harlow, Fir Tree House, Marston, Telephone: 43872.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Stephen Guse on winning his Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award.

150 Years of Bells

17th October, 1973 is the 150th anniversary of the recasting of the original five bells in the church. The present sixth bell (which was the tenor of those five) bears the inscription:

THIS PEAL WAS RECAST BY W & J
TAYLOR OXFORD OCTR 17 1823
JOHN CANNON & WILLM LEAKE C.W.

In the time of Edward VI an inventory records "Item: 3 small belles in the steple and con sanctus bell". This sanctus bell, which would have been rung during the Holy Sacrament, has disappeared although looking at the church today it is easy to see where it could have been.

The Churchwardens' accounts begin in 1529 and continue almost unbroken except for a gap in the middle of the 17th century, but there are no records of when the three small bells became five, though it must have been between the time of Edward VI and the recasting.

W & J Taylor, who had a bell foundry in St. Ebbes, were William, born 1795, and his brother John, born 1797. They were the sons of Robert Taylor who came from St. Neots and died at Oxford in 1830. It is from his descendants that the great Loughborough Foundry tradition sprang.

The next notable date for ringing at Marston after 17th October, 1823 was 8th June, 1932 when the five bells were re-hung, after being re-dedicated, in a new oak frame by R. White of Appleton. Then, on 26th July, 1948 the first peal was rung and from this date St. Nicholas became a name known throughout the world for the records made on those five bells. Most of these still stand, either as first in a method or, as in the case of the 12,600 changes rung in 6 hours 20 minutes in 1958, as still the record length in five.

During the 1960s the ringers raised money for a new treble bell which was hung on 16th March, 1973 by F. White of Appleton and dedicated on 18th June, 1973. At this time 81 peals had been rung on the old Taylor peal of 1823, a record for any five bell tower in the world.

It is because of its history of ringing that Marston will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of the 1823 recasting with a quarter peal on the 17th October and, the ringers hope, a full peal on the 20th October.

Alec Gammon

Footnote

The present band of ringers numbers about 32, most of them young and include men and women. They practice on Friday evenings and anyone interested in finding out more about them should get in touch with Alec Gammon at 50 Oxford Road, Marston.

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