

SEPTEMBER

FREE

Marston times

PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT NICHOLAS

'AS OTHERS SEE US'

I wonder how many listen to this on the B.B.C.? Maybe with the television on, this three minute programme would pass by un-noticed. Short and to the point . . . someone from foreign parts giving their views of us here in this country. Sometimes witty . . . sometimes critical . . . always enlightening. Things one has taken for granted for years suddenly high-lighted.

For some unknown reason the other evening these few words when announced suddenly made a new impact. As I listened "As others see us" . . . the more I thought, the more my mind went from one thing to the other. Have we ever sat down and thought of it as it applies to ourselves. To you and to me? Quite alarming in fact!

No doubt many of us are still in the holiday mood. Perhaps for some, the real holiday is to get away . . . to go off and stay somewhere, very often abroad, where we are not known. To do just as we please, to travel incognito so to speak. Very nice and very refreshing. But I wonder sometimes if we travel incognito all our life? That we never really face up to our true selves. In fact - never really see ourselves 'as others see us'. Some secret longing . . . some inner fear . . . a great ambition. Perhaps even making us somebody other than our real self. Never in fact really living life to the full. Many souls carry a burden all through their

life. There seems so little time in these days. If only we would lead a simpler life. Time to talk . . . time to get to know other people and time to get to know ourselves!

There was One who travelled incognito. He lived as Man nearly 2,000 years ago and life has never been the same since! He was a King. He was the Son of God but He chose to travel incognito because His motive was Love. People did not recognise Him. This led Him to the Cross. The Cross of Love. Our King still travels incognito. We can find Him in the trivial round and the common task . . . in the people around us . . . if we are prepared to see Him. He longs to enter into our life. To break down those barriers of tension. To share our fears and our problems. Our joys and our sorrows. He sees us as we are. In fact He wants to share our life with us. It is not just a question of copying Jesus our King as an example, but inviting Him to enter into our life . . . He who is the WAY OF LIFE. When that happens, we can expect great things as He said: "I AM COME THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE LIFE AND LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS!"

Chloe J. Dodge
Parish Worker.

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Happy Birthday To You!

Well, it's not really a birthday celebration. It's more like a Silver Wedding, and it concerns the marriage of three Churches in 1947.

For on 27th September, 1947, in St. George's Cathedral, Madras, the United Church of South India came into being . . . the first time an episcopal (i.e. with Bishops) Church had united with non-episcopal Churches (viz. Methodists and Congregationalists).

In the inaugural sermon the Rev. S. W. Hooper said:

"We can none of us envisage what this Church will become . . . In framing this Church we believe that we have been following the divine plan in keeping before us the ultimate goal of a truly ecumenical Church, however remote it may seem today; but there is no particular pattern yet in existence on earth to which we feel we must try to approximate: the living Spirit of God, moulding us thus far, will continue to mould us and all other Churches, until in the fullness of time, with changes in all the Churches that no man can foresee, we can truly grow together into one."

It was an adventure in faith, and time has proved what a wonderfully successful venture it has been.

The pathetic failure of the Anglican/Methodist Union proposals: the begrudging attitude of the Church of England towards the C.S.I. in 1947 and more recently the General Synod, only underline the fact that, far from waiting for the full support and communion of one of its parent bodies, the Church of South India, and other United Churches in different parts of the world will leave the Church of England behind on the question of Re-union.

It will be a tragedy if, instead of standing for comprehensiveness, the Church of England tends to polarize into two

camps: the progressive and the over-cautious, as far as unity is concerned.

I'm hoping everyone in the parish will do their utmost to attend the special Silver Jubilee Thanksgiving Service in St. Mary the Virgin, Oxford, on Wednesday, 27th September at 8 p.m., at which Dr. Marcus Ward, one of the original architects of the C.S.I. Re-union scheme, will be preaching.

It will be a happy birthday; an occasion of rejoicing. Let it also be a challenge to us all to press on towards a closer union of the churches in Britain in the days ahead.

P. N. R.

BAPTISM

There will be no service of Baptism on Sunday, 8th October.

Derek Parker

We extend our thoughts and our sympathy to the wife and family of Derek Parker, and give thanks for his work amongst the young people of this Parish. The number present at his memorial service at the Crematorium was certainly a testimony to the love and respect so many had for him.

UNITED SERVICE

An ecumenical day of prayer and conference has been planned by Marston United Churches for Saturday, 7th October, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at De la Salle Convent (formerly Greycotes School), situated at the corner of Marston Ferry Road and Banbury Road.

Please contact the Vicar or Miss Lodge for further details and outline of the programme, and see the notice in the Church Porch.

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Oxford Polytechnic urgently requires more accommodation for students for the Autumn Term starting 29th September.

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THIS AUTUMN

CHILDREN'S INSTRUCTION - Recommences on Sunday, 17th September.

The Nursery Department meets in the Mortimer Hall at 11.15 a.m. for children from three years until they start school. They then go to the Kindergarten Department in the Church Hall at 11.15 a.m. The Juniors are in the Church at 11.15 a.m.

The Confirmation School has a two year course, first Crossbearers and then Catechism. They meet at 10 a.m. and attend Parish Communion on the first Sunday of the month.

PARENTS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN - Here are two ideas to help parents with young children who find it difficult to attend Church Services.

From 3rd September there will be a Creche every Sunday in the Scout Hut during the 10 a.m. Parish Communion. Babies and children of all ages are welcome, while their parents attend the Service. (Dis-carded toys would be most welcome).

On the first Tuesday in the month from 5th September, at 9.15 a.m. there is a Communion Service - a convenient time for housewives with children at school.

WORSHIP - Without it the Church would be pointless. The pattern of Sunday Services remains unchanged - Holy Communion at 8 a.m., Parish Communion at 10 a.m. and Evensong at 6.30 p.m.

SCOUTING AND GUIDING - Two packs of Cub Scouts (8 to 11 years) meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays; Brownie Guides (7 to 10 years) meet on Mondays. Both groups are revising their waiting lists. Name, date of birth and address of would-be members, whether or not previously on the lists, should be sent to: Mr. A.J. Roberts, 54 Cherwell Drive, for Cubs, and Miss I.F. Read, 6 Cotswold Crescent, for Brownies.

Guides (10 to 14 years) have got new young Guiders. They have room for a few more girls. If you would like to join go to the Church Hall any Monday after 11th September, at 7.30 p.m.

Scouts (11 to 16 years) meet on Fridays at 7.15 p.m. If you wish to join see Mr. Hughes at 53 Arlington Drive, or at the Scout Hut on a Friday evening.

MARSTON WIVES - They meet alternate Wednesdays at 7.45 p.m. in the Church Hall. You will find companionship and a very mixed programmes of talks, etc. Re-starting on 13th September.

PLAYGROUP - A Playgroup meets in the Mortimer Hall for pre-school age children, Mondays to Fridays, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. There is a waiting list. If you want your child's name to be added to the list, see the group leader at the Mortimer Hall.

YOUTH CLUB - The Youth Club re-starts in September. Anyone from 14 years upwards interested in a programme of records, games, occasional films, etc., but above all wanting a social meeting place, will be welcomed.

OVER 60 CLUB - A cuppa, companionship and lots else for the senior citizens, on Monday afternoons at 2.15 p.m. Restarting on 4th September.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE - There are meetings of the Women's Institute on the second Tuesday of the month in the Church Hall at 7.30 p.m. There is a varied and interesting programme of talks, etc. They would be glad for you to go along to see for yourself, if you are not sure about joining.

THE MARSTON PLAYERS - The Marston Players will be pleased to have new members for work on their autumn production. They need not only acting members but also anyone willing to help behind the scenes - set building, costumes, props, prompting, etc. So if you are interested in any aspect of drama, join them on Thursday evenings at the Mortimer Hall about 8.15 p.m.

MARSTON SAINTS - Where else do you associate football and saints? "The Saints" are aged 10 to 15 years. If you wish to know more about them contact Mr. Roberts, 26 Fairfax Avenue.

OLD MARSTON CHESS CLUB - The Club is proud to prove chess can be played in a friendly atmosphere. They play on Tuesdays 7 to 10 p.m. from September to April, either in the Harlow School or the Church Hall. Whether you are a novice or up to the standard of their team in the third division of the Oxford League, contact Mr. C. Timbs, 9 Derwent Avenue, Headington, if you would like to join them.

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Whatever your age or inclination there IS something for you in Old Marston. I am sure there is much we don't know about. If you organise a voluntary activity meeting in Old Marston and would like to use our pages to interest everyone, I'll try to print a line or two, if you send information to me at 6 Cotswold Crescent.

I. F. Read

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MARSTON IS MY HOME

The outbreak of war in September 1939 found me sitting in St. Michael's School, New Marston, wondering who was going to take in this particular six year old evacuee? Six months later my parents arrived - bombed out from London's East end and found rooms in Hugh Allen Crescent. When the householder returned to London my parents took over the house and it looked as if this would be now "home". At fourteen I began work and was trained for grocery and provisions at the Marston Co-op. During the eight years with the firm I got to know many homes as I was the person who collected the ration books, grocery orders and marked the ration books.

When I had the call to the Ministry - partly through the ministry of St. Clements Church - the return to London was inevitable. I did my theological training there and then served in my first parish at nearby Southall. My mother died in the first year of our living in Southall so our break with Marston was made as my father came to live with us and the home at 67 Hugh Allen Crescent was cleared. We thought at the time that the break was final. Yet Marston was still "home". Sheila felt the same way, for we had met in Marston, when she worked at the Children's Home in Pullen's Lane and had a mutual child, who was in my Sunday School class and also in her family group at the home.

Seven years ago we were feeling very homesick. We had moved to a large parish in Sheffield. God had given us a big job to do and it would obviously take many years to complete what we had begun.

Oxford seemed a long way away. Then we saw an advertisement in the "Church Times". Paul Rimmer was advertising for a locum in Old Marston. We could hardly believe our eyes. Even as I wrote I thought we would have very little chance of being accepted. But we were! - and welcomed with open hearts. The locum was so easy, due to Miss Olive Lodge doing so much for us, that it was a real holiday. We returned to Sheffield refreshed.

Since then we have come every year. In fact Aileen, our youngest, who was born in August, has always had her birthday party at Marston. Returning this way has dealt with the home sickness problem, and also helped us to be more settled in the job in Sheffield God has given us to do.

Our one regret is that my parents never bought the No. 67 Hugh Allen Crescent. In the war they could have bought it for £520! House prices in Oxford, as they now are, makes the possibility of a future permanent home very remote. But such a thing would be worth looking forward to.

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