SEPTEMBER FREE

marston times

PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT NICHOLAS

CORNERS ....

SEPTEMBER . . . and with it comes the thought of St. Giles' Fair . . . back to school for the children . . . approaching Autumn days with Harvest Thanksgiving . . . evenings drawing in with gatherings around the fire maybe, to share holiday slides with friends and family, bringing back memories of sunshine (and showers!) and happy days. By the way, I hope all have had good holidays either at home or away and feel refreshed in every way.

Talking of holidays, the other day I was watching a member of our Parish working on our lovely new Notice Board which will adorn the Churchyard before very long. It was during his 'stay at home' holiday. His hands were working with the wood with what one might call 'reverence' as craftsmen always do handle their materials if one has time to stand and watch! What fascinated and impressed me was how all the corners fitted absolutely perfectly. Each piece of wood meeting at the corners. Nothing out of place. This made me think of those lovely words in one of our psalms 'the polished corners of the Temple' (Psalm 144 v 12). David the Shepherd King loved the Temple of God and writing those words he knew how important corners are. Yes! corners are important I am sure you would agree.

Housewives know that it is the corners that matter! An untidy corner will spoil a room. 'I know just the very thing to fit into that corner' remarks a friend on a visit. A beautiful piece of furniture in a corner will set off a room and so we can go on . . . Corners in the garden where the children play . . . special corners in our room. Corners in our life - sad ones - difficult ones - happy ones and treasured ones. There maybe corners in our life which have not been cleared up or cleaned up lately and we may find dust and a few cobwebs!

Every morning from Monday to Friday these words are said from Morning Prayer in our beloved St. Nicholas' Church. 'For the Lord is a great God . . . In His hands are all the corners of the earth' (Psalm 95 v 4). Words from the Venite - a song of praise and thanksgiving. Some may be very tempted to doubt this in these days as we look out upon the world where corners of the great universe are at war - and there is violence and bloodshed in many corners. But in spite of all this, all the corners are in His Hand because He came to share our life and was born in a corner of the Universe He made . . . lived and loved in another corner and died on a Cross in yet another corner because of His great Love for all who live in every corner of the earth.

So in these bewildering days we take courage in this and may we make every effort to see that in every small corner where we may be . . . where we live . . . where we work . . . where we meet our friends, is all the better for our being there because our life is fitted very closely to the One in Whose Hand are all the corners of the earth.

Olive J. Lodge

Deaconess.

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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pride

Another article in the series by Mr. M. G. Harris

It is perhaps little known that there are living in England today a number of whites suffering from leprosy. At one time in our English History, leprosy was quite common. If you walk along High Street in Oxford and look at St. Mary's Church you will see, just by the porch-way and cut into the wall, a barred window called the lepers window. Apparently the lepers would congregate around this window to listen to the services and to some extent join in. Leprosy is no respector of persons, rich or poor, high or low, proud or humble. Indeed it is the story of a proud leper that illustrates the road to Hell by pride.

Before the days of modern medical services leprosy was a contagious, incurable disease and all those who suffered from this were put away from the general community. They were avoided by all and sundry and even, as happens today in India especially, even shunned by their immediate family. Noraman was a leper. He was also a great Captain or General in the army. He was also very successful in his occupation and travelled during the course of his campaigns. He possibly contracted the disease during one of these campaigns. Unfortunately he was also very proud. The story tells that when he went to the Isrealite prophet to be 'recovered of his disease' he was told by the prophet's servant to go and wash seven times in the River Jordan. To the proud General who was used, no doubt to top treatment, this was something of a slight. He had expected 'red carpet' treatment from the prophet himself instead of a curt 'go and wash in the Jordan seven times' from the prophet's servant. Besides the Jordan was a sluggish dirty river, hardly fit for a General to bathe in.

Unfortunately this is the plight of a good many people today. Umbrage is taken at the most innocent of remarks or action because our pride is hurt. We feel that we deserve better treatment than we have received. Our pride takes over and we feel unable to reconcile ourselves with those with whom we are at variance because Pride will not allow us to make the first move. Like Noraman we would rather suffer, indeed cut our nose off to spite our face, than bend and become humble. It is Pride that still causes much distress among people today and is surely a certain way to Hell.

'Thank-you'

Many thanks to all who gave Linda Tanner (10 years) and Gillian Hine (9 years) odd jobs to do sometime in June. They collected in all £1.20 which they sent to the Sunshine Fund for Blind Babies and Young People. Recently Gillian, Linda and their friend Ruth Raisman rain a small jumble sale which raised £2.45 for the same charity.

GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

It is just twelve months since Mrs. Roberts started collecting foil for the "Guide Dogs for the Blind". She has raised £87.12 and has a month's supply in hand. That means sending off an average of ten sacks a month. There is always a bin outside 20 Haines Road into which to drop your washed foil, milk tops, silver paper etc. So, if you are not already a contributor, do join and help Mrs. Roberts to her target of £500 - the cost of training a dog.

BRIGHTWELL CUM SOTWELL

FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS AND MUSIC

14th-15th September: Church of St. Agatha

Friday, 14th

Flowers 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Service with United Choirs 7.30 p.m.

Saturday, 15th

Flowers 11 a.m. to 7.30 p.m.
Instrumental Concert, St. James Church, Sotwell 8 p.m.
Exhibition of Antique Dolls and Toys in Village Hall 11 a.m. to 7.30 p.m.

Sunday, 16th

Flowers 11 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.
Service of Thanksgiving 6.0 p.m.
Exhibition of Antique Dolls and Toys in Village Hall 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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YOUR CHILDREN AND YOU

A Parish Meeting is arranged for Tuesday, 25th September at 8 p.m. when the whole question of Sunday School and Children's Worship will be open for discussion and suggestions by parents of children. There is a strong feeling in many quarters that the children should worship at 10 a.m. in the Church Hall whilst their parents are in Church.

All who have children or who are interested in the question of Childre 's Instruction and Worship are invited to this meeting.

marston wives

The Marston Wives have their new session starting on Wednesday, 19th September at 7.45 p.m. in the Church Hall with a Demonstration and talk by 'Kake Brand'.

We look forward to welcoming all members back after the holiday and any new ones who would like to join us.

Marston Wives meet every other Wednesday in the Church Hall.

NEEDED !

HAS ANYONE A PIANO TO SPARE?

If so Bradlands would be most grateful for one for the Community Room. Please get in touch with the Warden: Mrs. MacNeal. Oxford 41938.

OVER 60's CLUB

Over 60's Club re-commences on Monday, 3rd September.

harvest thanksgiving

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

Sunday, 30th September

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

There will be a special Service for Parents and Children who will offer their gifts at 11.15 a.m. in Church.

The Church will be decorated for the Harvest Thanksgiving on Saturday morning, 29th September from 9 a.m. onwards. Gifts of flowers, fruit or vegetables will be most acceptable on Friday evening at the Church or early Saturday morning.

Guides

One of the nicest properties owned by the Girl Guide Association is Foxlease at Lyndhurst in the New Forest.

The house is used for adult training. Forty to fifty Guides from Oxfordshire will spend a weekend there in September. Guides camp in the grounds and some out-buildings have been converted to form a holiday house "Beaverbrook Lodge". Here the Brownie Guides and a few younger Guides spent their 1973 holiday from 18th August. Compared with camp beds and calor gas stoves in church halls, etc. we usually have a luxury time with bunk beds and an electrically equipped kitchen. With the forest on your door-step what could be nicer.

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The fete made £31.39 in spite of being rained away from Cotswold Crescent. Most of the work was done by the Guides themselves.

Guides restart on 17th September at 7.30 p.m.; Brownies a week later. The Guides still need adult help. You can see from the fete result that they do deserve encouraging. Can't you help? Contact Miss Read, 6 Cotswold Crescent, or Deaconess Lodge.

CHILDREN OF THE CHURCH

We look forward to seeing all the children back with us when our Sunday instruction re-commences on Sunday, 16th September at 11.15 a.m. and any new ones who would care to join us. For 3 upwards in the Church Hall, and those 8 upwards in the Church. The 10's and over in the Church Hall at 10 a.m.

oxford polytechnic

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Oxford Polytechnic urgently requires more accommodation for students for the Autumn Term starting 28th September.

Bedsitting rooms with or without breakfast are equally acceptable. An evening meal is not usually required. If you can spare a room and would be willing to take a student your help will be much appreciated.

Please write, or telephone between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The Lodgings Officer,
Oxford Polytechnic,
Gipsy Lane,
Headington, Oxford.

Telephone: Oxford 64777

HOLIDAYS

The holiday period is coming to an end and the children will soon be returning to school. This year few people in employment will not have paid holidays and many of us will have spent our holiday 'away'. How long I wondered, have ordinary people enjoyed this priviledge? Not long apparently.

The word, of course, means Holy Day. Originally it was applied to Saints' Days when work stopped to allow religious celebrations, which would include feting as well as worship. It became used for breaks from work for secular reasons. The days off varied from village to village but by the early 19th century the days on which the Bank of England closed for business were having their influence. In 1761 it closed for forty-seven days and in 1808 for forty-four days, in 1830 for eighteen days, but by 1834 only for four. The Bank Holiday Act 1871 settled the number at six in England.

Holidays with pay as we know them did not start until the 1880's and only became common between 1918 and 1939.

And those trips? People have always wanted to travel. In the days of ancient Greece they would travel to Olympic Games and other festivals. Not everyone approved. Plato in his laws allowed no one under forty to go anywhere into a foreign country and then only if he was on a public mission. But in the 4th century BC writers were acknowledging the contributions of foreign visitors to the prosperity of Athens.

Travel increased and improved in the days of peace and good roads brought by the Roman Empire.

By the middle ages 'tourists' were attracted to such places as Oxford which were famed for learning. Some places attracted visitors for medicinal reasons, but eventually the social life of some spas such at Bath outshone the medical attraction.

But the main 'draws' for tourists today - scenery and the sea - did not tempt people to travel until the end of the 18th century. Scarborough and other seaside resorts and the Lakes became the thing. Wilbeforce in the 1780's felt like I did when I first visited Ambleside on a sunny August day - "the banks of the Thames were scarcely more public than those of Windermere". In the 18th century only the well-to-do indulged; in the 19th century people of more moderate means, but only now are these pleasures available for most of us.

I. R.

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1973 VOL.3

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