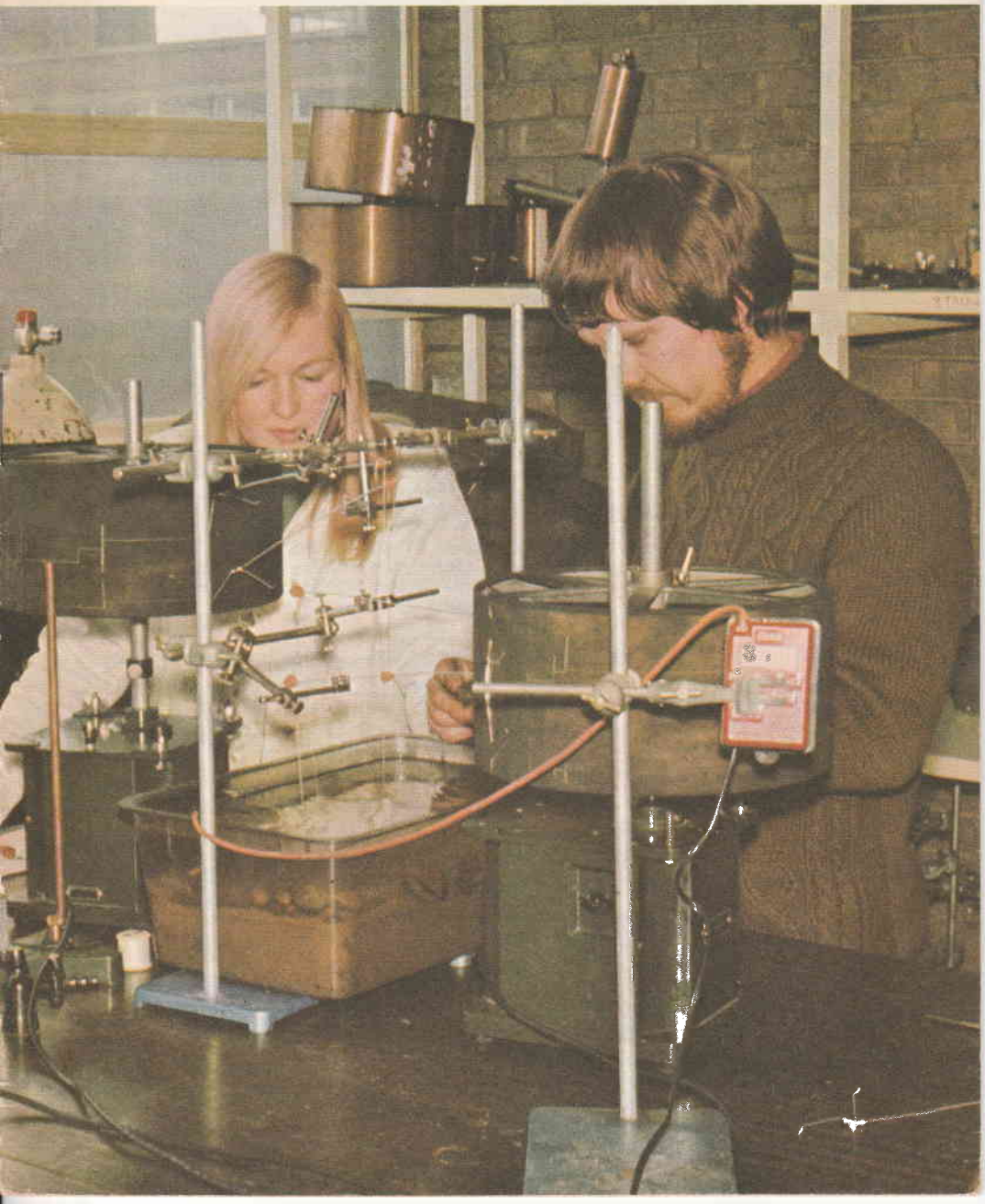
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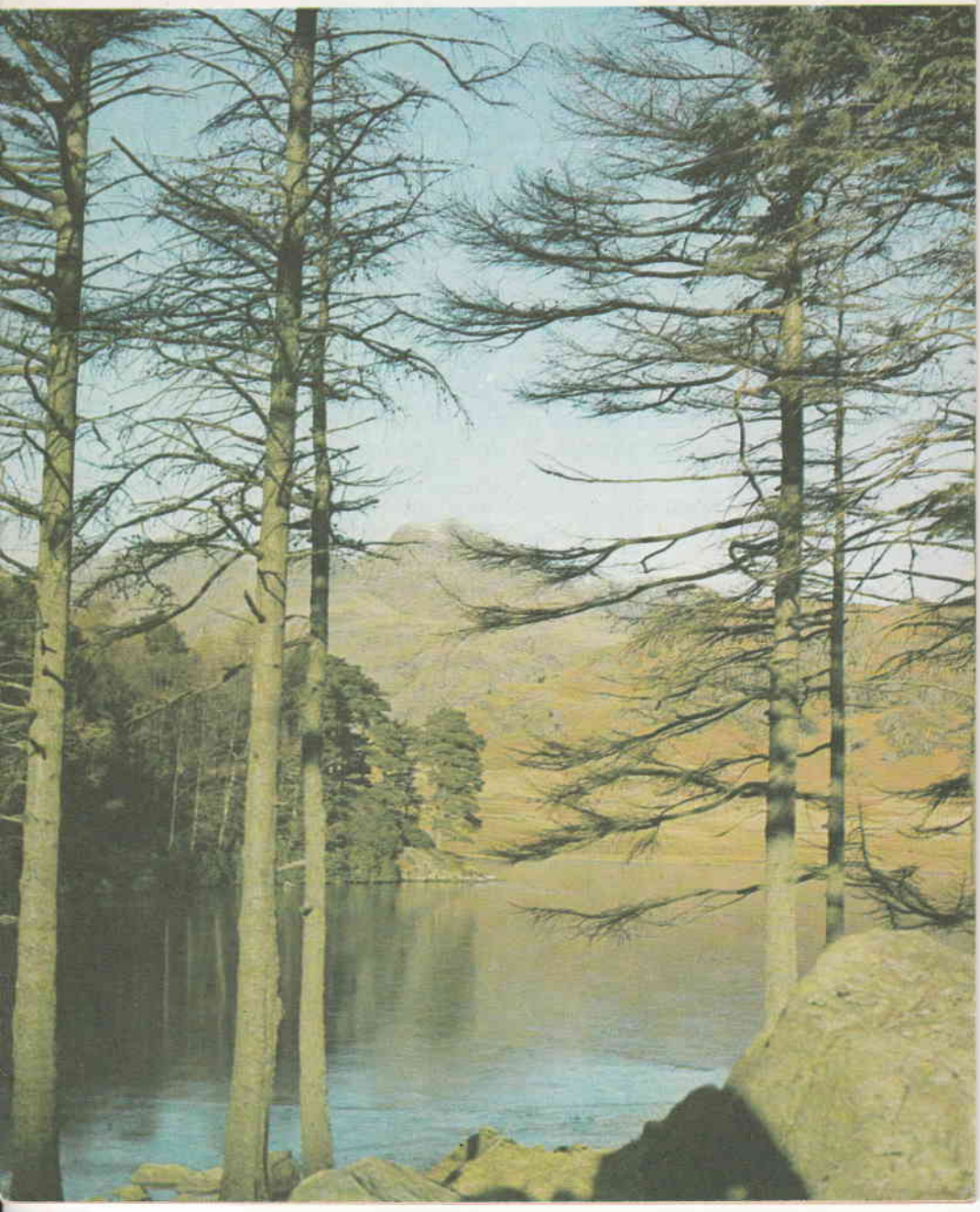
parish church of st. nicholas

No. 192 Price 5p FEBRUARY



Parish News

FEBRUARY



PARISH MAGAZINE COVER

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ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH — OLD MARSTON

Vicar : Rev. Paul N. Rimmer, M.A.
11 Elsfield Road, Old Marston. Tel. : 47034.

Reader : Mr. W. H. Saumarez Smith, O.B.E., M.A., Bishop's Wood End, Cuddesdon.

Parish Worker : Deaconess O. J. Lodge, 5 Elsfield Road, Old Marston. Tel. : Oxford 47956.

Vicar's Warden : Mr. V. C. Cardy, 110 Staunton Road, Headington, Oxford. Tel. : 61116.

People's Warden :

Secretary of the P.C.C. : Mrs. M. Harlow, Fir Tree House, Old Marston.

Organist : Mrs. E. A. Garner, "Barn Gates," 31 Oxford Rd., Old Marston. Tel. : Oxford 41888.

SUNDAY SERVICES

Holy Communion : 8 a.m.

Parish Communion : 10 a.m. Parish Communion (followed by Coffee). **Crèche** at the Vicarage.

Evening Prayer and Sermon : 6.30 p.m.

Holy Baptism : Second and Fourth Sundays of the month at 3 p.m. unless otherwise announced. Notice must be given.

Holy Matrimony : Banns to be given in at the Vicarage.

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Holy Communion : Wednesdays at 7.15 a.m.
3rd Friday at 10.30 a.m. with Laying on of Hands for sick.
And at other times, as announced. (See Notice Board).

The Daily Services of Morning and Evening Prayer are usually said each day at 7.15 a.m. and 5.15 p.m. (except on Saturdays). Wednesday : Morning Prayer is at 9.15 a.m. but it is **advisable to consult the notice board in the Church Porch.**

CHURCH ORGANISATIONS AND MEETINGS :

Children's Instruction : 10 a.m. in Church Hall during Parish Communion for ages 3½ to 10 years.
Also at 11.15 a.m. Kindergarten and Nursery in Church Hall.
Juniors in Church with a Family Service on 1st Sunday of each month.

Mother's Union : As announced, 7.45 p.m. at the Vicarage.

Young Wives Group : Alternate Wednesdays, 7.45 p.m. in Church Hall.

Bellringers : Practice Night — Friday nights, 7.45 p.m.

Brownies : Monday, 6 p.m. in Scout Headquarters.

Girl Guides : Monday, 7.30 p.m. in Scout Headquarters.

Cubs : Tuesday, 6.15 p.m. in Scout Headquarters.

43rd St. Nicholas' Scout Troop : Friday, 7.15 p.m. in Scout Headquarters.

As the covers are printed in advance you are advised to consult the Notice Board in the Church Porch, in case of alteration of times.

PARISH CALENDAR : FEBRUARY 1974

Feb. 3. EPIPHANY IV. Presentation of Christ in the Temple.
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
10.0 a.m. **The Parish Communion.**
11.15 a.m. Family Service in Church.

„ 5. Tuesday. 9.15 a.m. Holy Communion.

„ 6. Wednesday. 7.15 a.m. Holy Communion.
7.45 p.m. Marston Wives at College of Further Education.
"Bread making."

„ 7. Deanery Synod meeting, 7.30 p.m.

„ 10. SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
10.0 a.m. **The Parish Communion.**
11.15 a.m. Children's Instruction.
3.00 p.m. Holy Baptism (after previous arrangement).
6.30 p.m. Evensong and Sermon.

„ 12. Tuesday. Meeting of Cowley Deanery Chapter.

„ 13. Wednesday. 7.15 a.m. Holy Communion.

„ 15. Friday. 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.

„ 17. SEXAGESIMA SUNDAY
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
10.0 a.m. **The Parish Communion.**
11.15 a.m. Children's Instruction.
6.30 p.m. Evensong and Sermon.

„ 19. Tuesday. 8.00 p.m. Meeting of the Parochial Church Council.

„ 20. Wednesday. 7.15 a.m. Holy Communion.
7.45 p.m. Marston Wives. Discussion : "What is wrong with the Church" led by the Vicar and The Rural Dean.

„ 24. QUINQUAGESIMA SUNDAY. St. Matthias, Apostle.
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
11.15 a.m. Children's Instruction.
3.00 p.m. Holy Baptism (after previous arrangement).
6.30 p.m. Evensong and Sermon.

„ 27. ASH WEDNESDAY
7.15 a.m. Holy Communion.
10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
7.30 p.m. Evensong in Church.

„ 28. Thursday. Mothers' Union.

Mar. 1. Friday. WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER.

N.B. There is Children's Instruction in the Church Hall at 10 a.m. for those whose parents wish to attend the Parish Communion ($3\frac{1}{2}$ years to 10 years).

ALTAR FLOWER ROTA

Feb. 3. Mothers' Union by kindness of Mrs. Green.
„ 10. Mrs. D. Gibbons.
„ 17. Mrs. J. Starmer-Smith.
„ 24. Mrs. W. Tomlinson.

ADVANCE NOTICE

THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAY, MARCH 21st, IN THE CHURCH HALL.

Coffee 7.45 — 8.00 p.m.

VICAR'S LETTER

My Dear Friends,

February "fill-dyke" begins with Candlemas and ends with Ash Wednesday.

Candlemas is the old name for the festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, when St. Luke tells us of the aged Simeon uttering the beautiful words of the Nunc Dimittis, speaking of Christ as the "Light to lighten the Gentiles." In olden times it was the practice to carry lighted candles to Mass on this day, their light reminding worshippers of the Light of the World.

I could not help thinking of this symbolism during a meal at a friend's house the other night, when the candles on the table seem to be a silent reminder of the Unseen Guest at every meal.

We shall keep the Festival of the Presentation of Candlemas on Sunday, February 3rd, at 10 a.m., after which it will be followed by a special service for Parents and Children at 11.15 a.m.

It is unfortunate that owing to present restrictions we cannot have our Annual Shrove Tuesday gathering for the parish, but as soon as conditions become a little easier I am sure we will find an excuse for a Parish Party.

Ash Wednesday is on February 27th when there will be Holy Communion at 7.15 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. and Evensong and Sermon at 7.30 p.m. Traditionally the palms used on the previous Palm Sunday were burnt and the ashes used to mark a cross on the foreheads of penitents on this day ; a practice which still obtains in the Roman Church. However this is not performed in the way that it was in days of old when "they were introduced into the church, where the Bishop, in tears, and the rest of the clergy repeated the seven penitential psalms ; then rising from prayers ; they threw ashes upon them, and covered their heads with sack-cloth ; and then, with mournful sighs, declared to them that, as Adam was thrown out of Paradise, so they must be thrown out of the church" ! !

Perhaps the Church has grown "soft" on some issues. but it is far better that it is thought of as a welcoming community, than a rejecting one.

Here are some words which have been used before but which best express the spirit of Lent :

LET ME KEEP LENT

Let me not kneel and pray
Forego some trifle every day
Fast and take sacrament, and then
Lend tongue to slander, hold ancient grudge, deny
The very Lord Whom I would glory.
Let me keep Lent ;
Let my heart grow in grace,
Let Thy Light shine till my illumined face
Shall be a testament read by all men
That hate is buried, self crucified — new born,
The spirit that shall rise on Easter morn.

Yours sincerely,

Paul v. Reminen



photo: Dennis Mansell

Lighten Our Darkness

At first sight, this picture might seem somebody's dream of the city of the future. It is, in fact, part of a city of the present. These multi-storey flats rise above old buildings in a northern city. They are fact; they exist now. And the contrast they make with the past is all the more dramatic by the darkness of the buildings below them.

Such a picture would have been impossible twenty years ago. Almost before our eyes nowadays the shape of our world is changing, and the face of it altering out of all recognition. Never were so many affected by so much change in so short a time.

This is all to the good, if change necessarily means better lives and better people. Quite often it does. Obviously, better material conditions of living; more light, more space, more modern amenities of many kinds are all to the good. But it is a great mistake to suppose that change of this sort necessarily

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Monthly Story *p. 29*

means progress towards a better quality of human nature.

This is one of the ideas of our time which has gone wrong. It was once thought that improvement in material living conditions would necessarily lead on to improvement in human relationships and conduct. But this has simply not happened. We might light up our buildings more brightly; but we are still under the need to lighten the darkness in ourselves.

There are still such things as human greed and folly and covetousness. There is still cruelty. There are even more crimes of violence in cities than there have been for many years past.

What is to be done?

What then is to be done? One essential is to get rid of the false idea that we can plan for a better human nature. We can only pray for it. It takes longer to change people than to change buildings. What is more, we cannot do it ourselves. It can only be done by patience and perseverance.

These are not just words. They are facts. And it is a proper penitential thought with which to start off Lent, that we all have a long way to go before our spiritual progress gets anywhere near the pace and dramatic impact of the technological process which is going on all round us. A new world needs new people. That is the only lasting way to lighten our darkness.

SIGNET

THE SIGN

Not ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified

FEBRUARY 1974 No. 830

2	Sa	**Presentation of Christ in the Temple**
3	**S**	**4 after Epiphany**
10	**S**	**Septuagesima**
17	**S**	**Sexagesima**
24	**S**	**Quinquagesima**
26	Tu	**St Matthias, Apostle** (trans. from 24th)
27	**W**	**Ash Wednesday**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Shafts of Light

'Turn back to me' Joel 2:12 (N.E.B.)

'*What do we hope to gain by all the efforts we make? . . . But if I wish, I can become the friend of God at this very moment . . . and to reach this goal I needed no chariot or ship. I need not even walk as far as I had come from the house to the place where we sat, for to make the journey and arrive safely, no more was required than an act of will. But it must be a resolute and whole-hearted act of the will, not some lame wish . . . For in this case the power to act was the same as the will. To will it was to do it.*' Saint Augustine: Confessions

SISTER SUSAN SLG

AIDAN WHITTINGTON TALKS TO. . .

Sir Keith Joseph

SIR Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Social Services, was keenly interested in welfare long before he ever went into politics. Work for the unemployed with the Friends and Jewish welfare bodies while a student led to later involvement in both housing and old people's care. While a Fellow of All Souls and deputy chairman of a giant construction company, Sir Keith found time to launch the London and Mulberry housing trusts, and the Three Score Club for old folk in the City of London—'to my surprise and pleasure, many of them married each other!'

Welfare took him into both local and national politics: he became a Conservative MP in 1956, was Minister of Housing under Macmillan, and in 1970 assumed overall responsibility for the vast Department of Health and Social Security. Hospitals, old-age and other pensions, child care, welfare services and much else are under his direction.



photo: Central Press Photos Ltd

The parents' part

Sir Keith emphasises the need to prevent tomorrow's social casualties.

'Fifty years ago parents were very ignorant of their children's physical needs. Over the years education, better food, more recreation and welfare have transformed the physical condition of this country's children. Problems of neglect and poverty remain, of course, but parents' awareness of children's emotional needs is as important for us today as the question of physical needs was fifty years ago. The seeds of social deprivation and anti-social behaviour are sown in childhood, and that is when we must tackle the problem. It is a long-term problem, needing a partnership of the Churches, professional bodies, and the health and education authorities.'

He sees the Churches' involvement in welfare as continuing and very significant. 'The Churches and voluntary bodies must always be identifying the gaps in our welfare provision. Voluntary work can no longer hope to meet these needs itself: only government can do that. But the Churches and voluntary bodies have a vital role to play by showing us what is being neglected, by raising our standards, by supporting the individual. Family, neighbours and voluntary bodies must remain the main supports for the individual. Only when all these are overwhelmed by a person's needs, or technical help is required, do the paid social services go into action.'

Aspects of welfare somewhat neglected before are getting Sir Keith's special attention, from the problems

to page 28



The Editor of THE SIGN will be glad to hear from readers. All letters, if accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope, will be answered personally and should be addressed to: The Editor of THE SIGN, The Alden Press, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0EG. A 50p Book Token will be sent to the writer of any letter published.

The Church has a lot to say about sex and drugs. But what about money? The dealings in the City, as I know, are often downright wicked. Is it not time that the Church spoke out against big business practices?

Thomas Holden, Ashford, Middlesex.

So long as the Church does not forget to preach against the dangers of covetousness, she is not failing in her duty. As it is, there are few signs that this duty is, in fact, being overlooked, and leading Churchmen have not failed in the past years to speak out against the dangers of our acquisitive society. Meanwhile, we would hesitate to subscribe to the idea that 'dealings in the City are often downright wicked'. It depends what they are. Many are helpful and indeed essential, to the economy of the country. Ed.

Shrines and Holy Places

As a reader of *The Sign* for many years, I have been interested to see that you have run many pilgrimages to the Holy Land. There are numerous ancient and holy places in this country. I wonder if any other reader would be interested in visiting some of them?

Richard Albright, Ely.

Many people do visit such places in this country, as the growing number of visitors to cathedrals and historic churches bears witness. And of course, people have been going on pilgrimages to such places as Walsingham and Glastonbury for many years. The Sign *has no plans at present to run pilgrimages in this country, but Mowbrays, who publish* The Sign, *are hoping to bring out before long a series of guides to shrines and holy places, and that might help. Ed.*

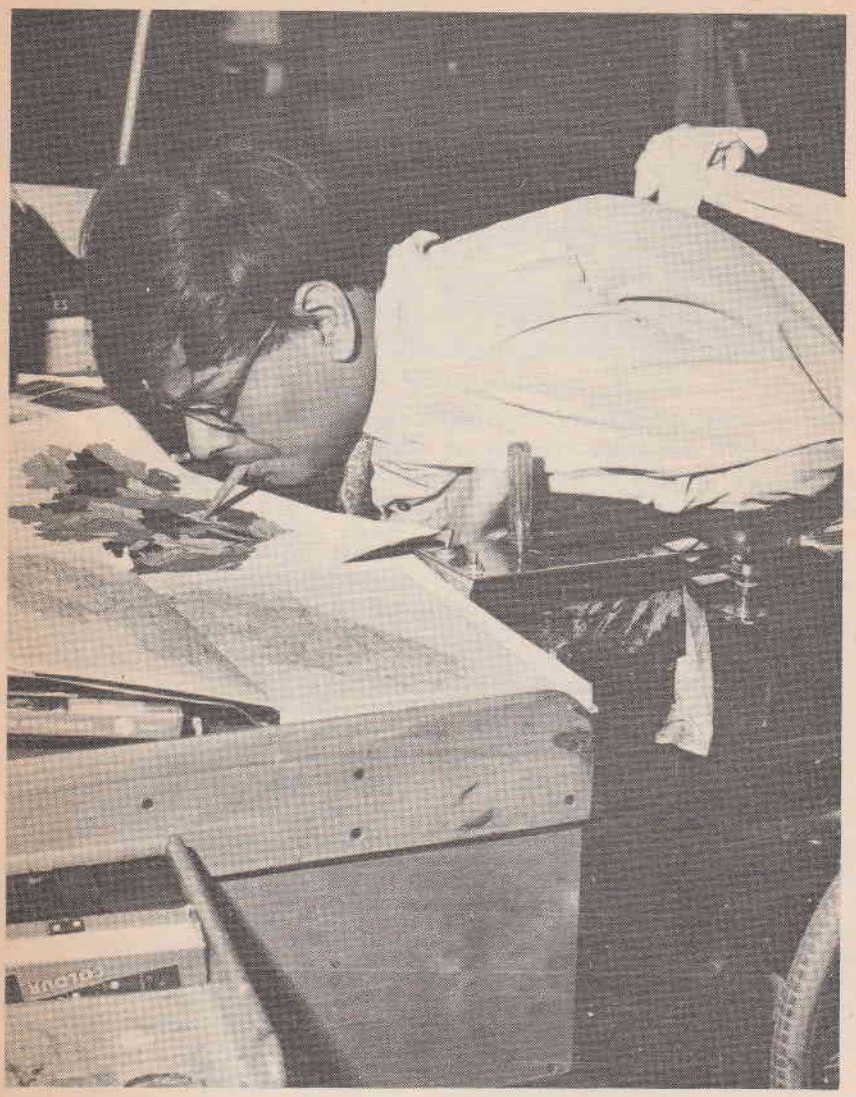
Question Competition

Can you answer the following question in not more than 100 words: **Should the Church Advertise?**

Write your own letter in reply and send it to Question Competition, The Sign, The Alden Press, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0EG. A £3 Book Token will be awarded to the winning entry. Closing date February 28th.

To the question **In an age when we suffer from too much noise, should bell-ringing be controlled?**, *an overwhelming majority of the many who replied said, in effect, 'No'. In other words, most thought that church bell-ringing should not be controlled because they thought it a noble and uplifting sound. One reader, Miss Lynn Sowerby, pointed out that bells were often* 'the only reminder to many of the presence of the Church'. *One of the few on the other side, Mrs C. M. R. Cooper, said that* 'enough is enough. So, campanologists, temper your enthusiasm with moderation . . .' *The winning entry came from Mr A. F. Willard, Wellington, Surrey*:

'For many persons, even in this day and age, there is joy and hope in the sound of church bells, and it would be a sad loss if one of the few reminders of a peaceful, tranquil age were restrained, or were to cease, leaving only the raucous din of motor traffic and the deafening noise of jet aircraft above our heads. These are the things which should be controlled, not the sound of church bells which harm no one, but whose sound lifts the heart and mind by the promise of a better life to come.'



Courtesy of The Shaftesbury Society

Psalms of Life

'Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me, for my soul trusteth in thee.'

Ps. 57.1



Carlo Carretto, at the age of forty-four, after an active life in the service of the Church in Italy, felt an unmistakable call to leave everything and go to the desert, giving God not his actions but his prayers and love. There, in the depths of the Sahara, he joined the Little Brothers of Jesus founded by another Frenchman, Charles de Foucauld. After some years he wrote the 'Letters from the Desert', telling his many friends, whose addresses he had destroyed in the self-denial of his new life, the lessons he had learnt in the solitude and immensities to which he had gone. These letters have become a spiritual classic. In this second extract Carlo Carretto speaks of learning to love God.

It is clear we are made to love. The difficulty is to establish what to love and how.

The love of God is by nature pure, balanced and holy, whoever is dominated by it lives in deep peace, has an ordered view of things, and knows the meaning of true freedom. But the love of God, too, passing into man's heart, must be worked at, cultivated, pruned, fertilised. And the most uncompromising farmer is God himself.

Above all, love must be purified. What does it mean, to purify love? It means releasing love from the fetters of the senses and from the pursuit of pleasure. In other words, making it free to grow in our hearts.

We often fail to realise the depth of evil, terrifying as it is. I am speaking of the selfishness of good people, devout people, those who have succeeded through spiritual exercises and self-denial in being able to make the proud profession before the altar of the most high: 'Lord, I am not like the rest of men.'

Wrong motives

Yes, we have had the audacity at certain times of our lives to believe we are different from other men. And here is the deepest form of self-deception, dictated by self-centredness at its worst: spiritual egotism.

I believe very strongly that a large proportion of the good intentions of strivings to seek God are ruined in this way. One can reach the point of consecrating one's self to God for egotistic motives.

There is no limit to such self deception. And the past, once entered upon, is so slippery that God has to treat us harshly to bring us back to our senses. But there is no other way of opening our eyes. It has to be painful.

How can we possibly entertain the idea that we are different from other men, when we shout, cry, feel afraid, lack determination, and behave

atrociously, just like everybody else?

It is the purification of love, the refining fire which exposes our nakedness. And God himself, who is love, is not powerless. On the contrary, because he is love he acts with greater determination.

If the soul does not free itself by way of the Cross it can never be free. It is a tremendous surgical operation which the Father himself carries out on the flesh of his son in order to save him. And it is a dogma of faith that without the Cross there is no forgiveness. A mystery, but it is so. Pain purifies love. It makes it true, real, pure; and in addition it gets rid of what is not really love. It frees love from pleasure which falsifies it.

When the flood of pain has passed over the soul, what remains alive can be considered genuine. Certainly not much remains. Often it is reduced to a singed shrub. But on this the dove of the Holy Spirit may rest to pour out his grace.

Love freely given

It is reduced to a 'yes' murmured amongst tears and anguish, but echoed by the all powerful 'yes' of the dying Jesus. It is reduced to a child who has ceased to argue with God.

In this state the soul is capable of a love which is freely given. It can no longer bear any other kind of love. It feels nausea when faced with sentiment. It loathes calculated love. It has finally entered into the logic of God.

© 1972 Orbis Books, New York. These extracts are taken from *Letters from the Desert* by Carlo Carretto, published by Darton Longman & Todd, at 90p. Available from any bookseller.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

If you pray 'thy will be done', who is there to do it but you?

Mother Eva Mary
THE ANGLICAN DIGEST

As a Matter of Fact...

A summer story to warm the winter. For over 85 years on Sunday afternoons in July and August boaters from Canada and the USA gather at Half Moon Bay, Ontario, for ecumenical services. They arrive by canoe, rowboat, houseboats and large power boats, and stay in them during the service. Scouts in canoes distribute prayer and hymn books, and take the collection. It sounds great.

Jeff is No Mutt

'Jeff' is a woman, and a minister in the United Reformed Church. Her call to the ministry came when she was over sixty and she was given charge of an East End church for two years. Ten years later, according to the Church Army Review, at a time when most people of her age like to put their feet up, she is busier than ever, with oversight of two churches and a diary full of speaking engagements.

Ssh!

Gloucester Cathedral has a whispering gallery dating from 1350 which is 55 ft long. A whisper at one end can be heard perfectly at the other. A 17th century choir school master had an inscription put up there which reads:

'Doubt not but God who sits on high
'Thy secret prayers can hear
'When a dead wall thus cunningly
'Conveys soft whispers to the ear.'

Quote From the Past

When a delegation of ministers from the north of America asked Abraham Lincoln if he believed that God was on their side in the war between the States, he replied that the proper

to next page

POETS' CORNER

The winning entry this month is published below and receives a £3 Book Token. Other winning entries for this competition will be printed throughout the year. Send your entries to Poetry Competition, The Sign, The Alden Press, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0EG.

THE GATE

A sturdy three year old in corduroy,
You'd climb the gate to that rough Suffolk field,
Soft hair wind-blown and cheeks a-glow, a boy
Whose very joy in life must ever yield
Delight to all. 'See geese! see geese!' you'd cry,
And shake the gate, and offer crusts of bread,
And then the waddling birds would squawk and fly;
Together we would watch them overhead:
That gate would open for me any day
And in the field we'd wander hand in hand.
But now in fields Elysian you play
Beyond the gate at which we mortals stand.
Yet love endures, and time cannot divide,
And that gate too one day shall open wide.

SYLVIA NORTON

As a Matter of Fact continued

question was not whether God was on their side, but whether they were on God's side.

If you have an interesting paragraph for this page, send it, cut out or copied out, to Micheal Jacob, c/o The Sign, The Alden Press, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0EG.

One Column Bible Commentary

WILLIAM NEIL

THE Letter of Paul to Philemon, one of the shortest in the New Testament, is also one of the most fascinating. It was written to one of Paul's old friends, a wealthy citizen of Colossae in Asia Minor, who had become a Christian as a result of Paul's preaching of the gospel. By now the old apostle was a prisoner in far-off Rome awaiting trial but still allowed to preach, and among his recent converts was a young slave, Onesimus, belonging to Philemon, who had robbed his master and sought refuge in the capital of the Empire. We may hazard a guess that this was a story like that of the Prodigal Son, and that when the youngster was down and out he had turned to his master's old friend for help. At all events he had become his devoted servant.

Paul was writing to the Christian community at Colossae which met in Philemon's house, and he took the opportunity to enclose a note to Philemon about Onesimus, who was to accompany the bearer of the letter, asking him to forgive his runaway slave and offering to make good his debts. Onesimus had made his peace with God but that was not enough. He had an obligation to his master and must return and take his punishment which in Roman law could have been death. But Paul was sending back a slave to a master who had both become brothers in Christ, and the proof that his plea for forgiveness was successful is that the letter is now in the New Testament. Paul's gospel of reconciliation was working!

JUNIOR PAGE

Do you like watching *Jackanory*? Plenty of mums do, as well as their children! Of course, if you can't read or write (until recently most people in the world couldn't do either) then the *only* way you can enjoy a story is to hear it told.

People in the East are particularly fond of stories. But they don't listen to them in quite the same way as we do. At the end, you quite likely say, 'Is that true?' You mean, 'Is that a fact? Can you prove that it all actually happened?' But an Eastern child, from India or Palestine, the country where Jesus lived, wouldn't ask that. He'd say, 'What do you want me to find out from this story?'

So when the people of Palestine sat round their campfires at night, long, long ago, they learned a good deal from the stories that the wise old men told. Many of these stories were about the beginning of the world. Why had it begun? Why had God made it? In some nearby countries, people said that the world was made by accident. They said that it was made out of water, or out of the dead body of a dragon. They said that men were made to be toys for sun-gods or moon-gods to play with.

He'd *made* the sun and moon, and he was greater than they were. God was the beginning of all life. And he hadn't made it by accident. He wanted to make it, and he wanted to fill it with men and women and children, in just the same way that people who get married want to make a home and have children to live in it. They want children so that they can love them. God wanted people, so that he could love them. That's what the story of the beginning of the world is *really* about.

Pamela

Competition

What's your favourite story out of the Bible? Tell me its name and why you like it best. Send your answer to Pamela at 'The Sign', The Alden Press, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0EG, not forgetting to add your name, address and age. Prizes for the best.



We are very lucky—lots of children who learn to read in other countries find it very hard to get books. They don't have bookshops in their villages, and they certainly don't have public libraries! So they miss a lot of enjoyment. Let's remember to thank God for the people who buy books for our library and stamp them when we take them out—and perhaps tell us stories in the holidays, too!

Women's World

A RECENT article in a leading church newspaper vividly described the hypnotic and sinister effect of ceaseless television watching on two small children. 'Why do they listen?' asked the distracted mother. 'I could turn it off: but they will scream. . . . Why do they prefer to listen to what must be an incomprehensible discussion on the pill rather than play in the garden?' she added. The children were aged five and seven.

This is by no means an unusual case. Is it possible that we really are breeding a nation of viewers, not doers? If so, this is a tragedy because there were never more opportunities than today for making and doing things, even for those tied to the home.

Turning out a cupboard recently, I came upon a lop-sided brightly-coloured little cardboard man, which had been drawn, coloured, cut out and stuck onto a rough piece of painted wood years ago by one of our small sons. As an artistic effort it is startling. But nothing would induce me to throw it away, for the message solemnly inscribed on the back is significant: 'In memory of the birth of Catherine.' Thus was our third child's arrival celebrated, and I remember still the eager and anxious presentation of this gift by its creator. So whether it be a child's drawing, or a adult's beautiful piece of carving or embroidery, there is nothing quite like the deep satisfaction of producing something of your very own.

HOME ART AND CRAFTS

A £1 book-token will be offered for the most interesting account of a home activity which has brought you

LIFE WITH BARNABAS *by Graham Jeffery*



1. In many ways, Sammy, this wind reminds me of the Holy Spirit.



3. And it's so invigorating the way it blows through our lives.



2. We don't know where it comes from, or where it's going.



4. And though we can feel it, and see it blowing our scarves, we can't actually see the wind itself.

pleasure or profit. Send to me, Anne Arnott, at THE SIGN, The Alden Press, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0EG, by February the 19th.

Make do and mend

Many people learnt the secrets of make do and mend during the War and if, as seems likely, clothes prices increase, these skills will be more important than ever.

Current fashions could be helpful and the vogue for patchwork and appliqué in dress needs only a little imagination to be used to advantage. The knees and elbows of children's slacks and jackets, for instance, can be very attractively reinforced. Choose a bright contrasting material, and, making sure the material 'gives' in the same direction as the basic garment, cut a diamond or a heart-shaped patch the size you want plus about $\frac{1}{4}''$ to spare all round. Turn in edges and tack in place. Sew on with herringbone, buttonhole or feather stitch.

Many women who are at home during the day gain a double benefit from attending evening classes as it is an opportunity to meet people as well



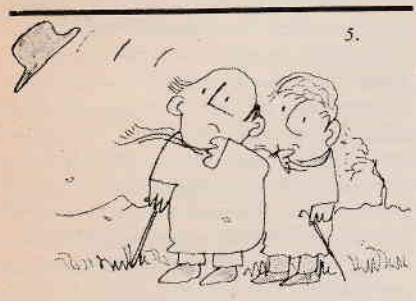
photo: Dennis Mansell

as to learn. And if dressmaking does not appeal there are all sorts of other courses such as carpentry and leatherwork, not to mention regional crafts like making Somerset corn dollies or Dorset buttons.

If you cannot manage to get to classes in the craft you would like to try—browse in your local book shop. Or even in the library. There are any number of excellent books of instruction. One recent publication, *Making Glove Puppets* by Esme McLaren (published by Bell £3.50) describes a hobby that would be particularly enjoyed by the younger members of the family. They, and you, would also get plenty of fun from making doll's house furniture from household scraps like matchboxes and cotton reels. Though hardly a craft this is a good occupation for wet winter days!

And, talking of scraps, how about real proper patchwork? This is

to next page







7. And sometimes He sends us on journeys we didn't expect.

becoming tremendously popular and it is of great practical use for bedspreads and cushions. You have only to visit the American Museum near Bath to see what works of art can be achieved.

Sewing Bees may savour of our grandmother's day; but if you have a Church Bazaar or a fund raising effort coming up how about having a couple of friends round once a week for coffee and get them to help you make a patchwork quilt or even a set of dolls in historic costume? For these you need only some small dolls, some scraps of satin and brocade, a book on historical costume borrowed from the library and you can make Henry VIII and all his wives!

Recipe—Griddle scones

To go with the coffee at your Sewing Bee try these griddle scones with butter and honey:

Sift together in a bowl 4 oz plain flour, pinch of salt, 3 teaspoons baking powder, 2 tablespoons sugar. Beat together 1 egg, ¼ pint milk, 1 tablespoon cooking oil. Make a well in centre of dry ingredients and pour the beaten mixture in all at once. Mix just sufficiently to combine ingredients. Have your griddle or heavy pan hot and drop dessertspoonfuls on to it. Turn each scone over as its bubbles begin to burst and cook just enough to brown the other side.

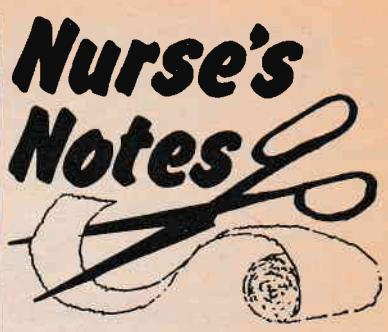
Anne Arnott

Aidan Whittington—Sir Keith Joseph continued

of the alcoholics to those of the deaf and the mentally ill. But what about down-and-outs and vagrants, often so difficult to reach?

'The Salvation Army and Church Army are great stalwarts here.'

Married to an American sculptress, with one son and three daughters, Sir Keith doesn't think politics need interfere with family life.



WHEN a mother brings her child to me with the complaint that he is deaf and cannot hear his teacher at school I ask myself if he or she is merely inattentive. Children can become deeply involved in a Walter Mitty existence before the turn of their 'teens. They unconsciously ignore a good chunk of the conversation directed at them by loving parents. Perhaps they carry the habit into school. Mental concentration is a hard discipline to learn.

A childhood tale

When I was a child my headmistress told my mother that I was substandard. My mother interviewed our school medical officer to press her view that I was deaf. Hard words decided the issue. A Harley Street consultant assured my mother that catarrh was obstructing my hearing. He duly washed out my sinuses and inflated my eardrums. I continued my school career in a substandard fashion and failed to justify the hopes of Mr Harley Street. Truth to tell I was truant from my lessons. I stayed on at school—and failed all my examinations. As soon as I left school the scales fell from my eyes; private and personal study soon redressed the balance.

Many late developers may adopt some such a simple alibi as deafness to resist being pushed too hard by ambitious parents or teachers.

MONTHLY STORY BY ANN LEWIS

Granny and the Escalator

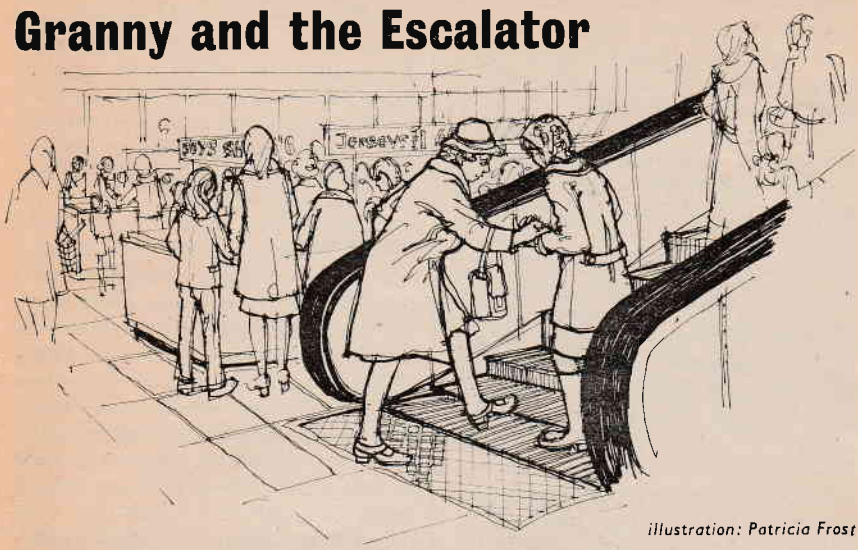


illustration: Patricia Frost

WHEN one thinks of the parable of the Ten Virgins, it is the five who were wise who should spring most readily to mind, having of course, the excellent modern parallel of the story in the Guide and Scout Movement with its laudable motto, 'Be Prepared.'

That awful Monday

Alas, with far more experience of being found wanting, it is the other five with whom we, in our household, have more identification. And I am put especially in mind just now of that awful Monday I took our grannie up the new escalator in our local store.

Nothing whatever to do with oil of course (although the oil in the machine working those stairs was of superlative quality, and was,—I would take my oath on it—moving them along at something like twenty miles an hour). The experience did, however, hint very strongly at my foolhardiness and gave me some inkling of what the slap-happy lassies in the wedding story must have felt when the midnight cry went up and they were left in the lurch.

Not, mind you, that I pressed our grannie into trying the escalator. When you're eighty and almost at a standstill through Arthritis, it goes without saying that extreme solicitude and the gentlest care possible are the unwritten rules. On the other hand, our grannie was born in the Naughty Nineties and lives up to the name of her generation.

'Where are the slippers?' she asked when we finally staggered into the shop. 'I want to see them.' Having tried, without success, the tack that slippers were only in season at Christmas, I reluctantly admitted that they were on the next floor.

Plenty of time

'Come on then, let's go up. There's plenty of time, we don't have to be home yet awhile.' And then, seeing this innovation to our local store, she cried impetuously, 'Look! That'll carry me up without effort.'

I recognised a potential Waterloo

to next page

straight away. But there was no gainsaying her, so I made what hasty mental plans I could and off we went.

As we approached the thing I said, 'Now, which is your better leg?' She pointed to the left one. 'Okay. Take my arm firmly and put your left leg on first.' It seemed fool-proof.

But this is where my oil-can let me down. I forgot to tell her to lift the bad leg when she stepped on the first stair, with the result that she determinedly kept it flat on the floor.

Getting down again

'Dear Heaven!' I panicked as we clung to each other, 'she's going to split clean up the middle and all that will be left will be her hat.' But by now we were ignominiously half way up, and the greater terror seized me—how to get her off at the other end. . . .

Just as we never heard in detail what happened in the end to the five foolish virgins, so the memory of the end of grannie's escalator escapade has been blotted from my mind. Like amnesia in an accident. That we got off, of course, was not in dispute. (And she was far less scathed over the adventure than I.) But when she had seen the slippers and everything else on that floor, I gave her no choice for the descent. My lamp was absolutely dry of oil. I said without compromise, 'Even if it takes us till closing time, we will go down by the steps.'

Bishop John Charles, the subject of January personality portrait, was assistant Bishop of Chelmsford and not of London.

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W. E. Shewell-Cooper's
GARDENING NOTES

IN going through my correspondence month by month, I find there are many letters that refer to February, so I thought this month I would devote the whole article to answering queries. You will see that the subjects are quite varied.

Anchusas

T.Y.,—You may propagate your Anchusa by making root cuttings now. Lift the plant with as many roots as possible and then cut the thick fleshy roots into pieces about 2 inches in length. To show which is the lower part of the root, make the lower cut a slanting one and the top cut straight across. Insert these cuttings into a sandy compost in a 5 inch pot. Push the cuttings down into the compost, pointed end first, until the tops are just below the soil; ½ inch should be allowed between each cutting. Once the pot is filled, rap it on the bench and press the soil around the cuttings with your fingers.

Rock garden plants

M.K.N.,—There are drought-resistant plants for the rock garden, but they have very long Latin names. I will mention three: Zauschneria californica, Othonnopsis cheirifolia and Odontospermum maritimum. The first one loves a dry wall and quick drainage. It grows about 12 ins. high and is covered with scarlet flowers. The second one trails along bearing yellow daisy flowers in July. The third one has evergreen bluey foliage which looks attractive during the Winter. I have heard it called the African Ragwort.

The blue poppy

G.L.,—The blue poppy is called Meconopsis. It came originally from Tibet, though others have been introduced since from Nepal and other

places. Perhaps the easiest blue poppy to cultivate is Baileyi, which is really a perennial. It grows 3ft. or 4ft. high with a great spike of poppy flowers of vivid blue. It likes to grow in rich cool loam and in a sheltered position.

Sowing parsnips

C.M.H.,—I doubt if you can sow your parsnips much before the third week in February—so much depends on the weather. You could plant your Jerusalem artichokes and make a sowing of spinach at the same time. Box up the seed potatoes directly they arrive so as to sprout them. The lettuces you have got in your cold frames can now be planted out into sheltered beds and covered with cloches.

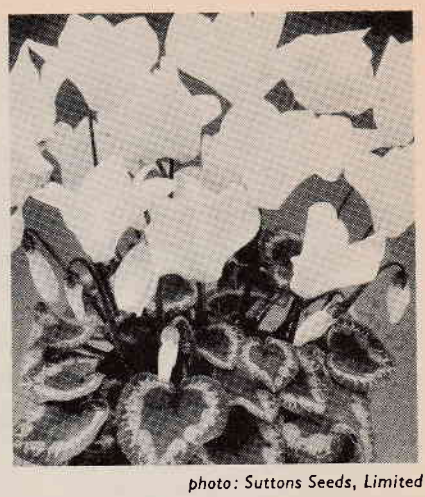


photo: Suttons Seeds, Limited

Cyclamen

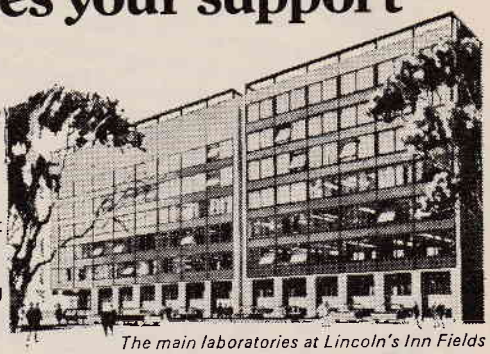
R.P.,—Yes, you can raise Cyclamen from seed; in fact, a February sowing should produce you a batch of nice plants to bloom freely in October. The soil should be light and porous and the drainage in the 5 inch pot very good.

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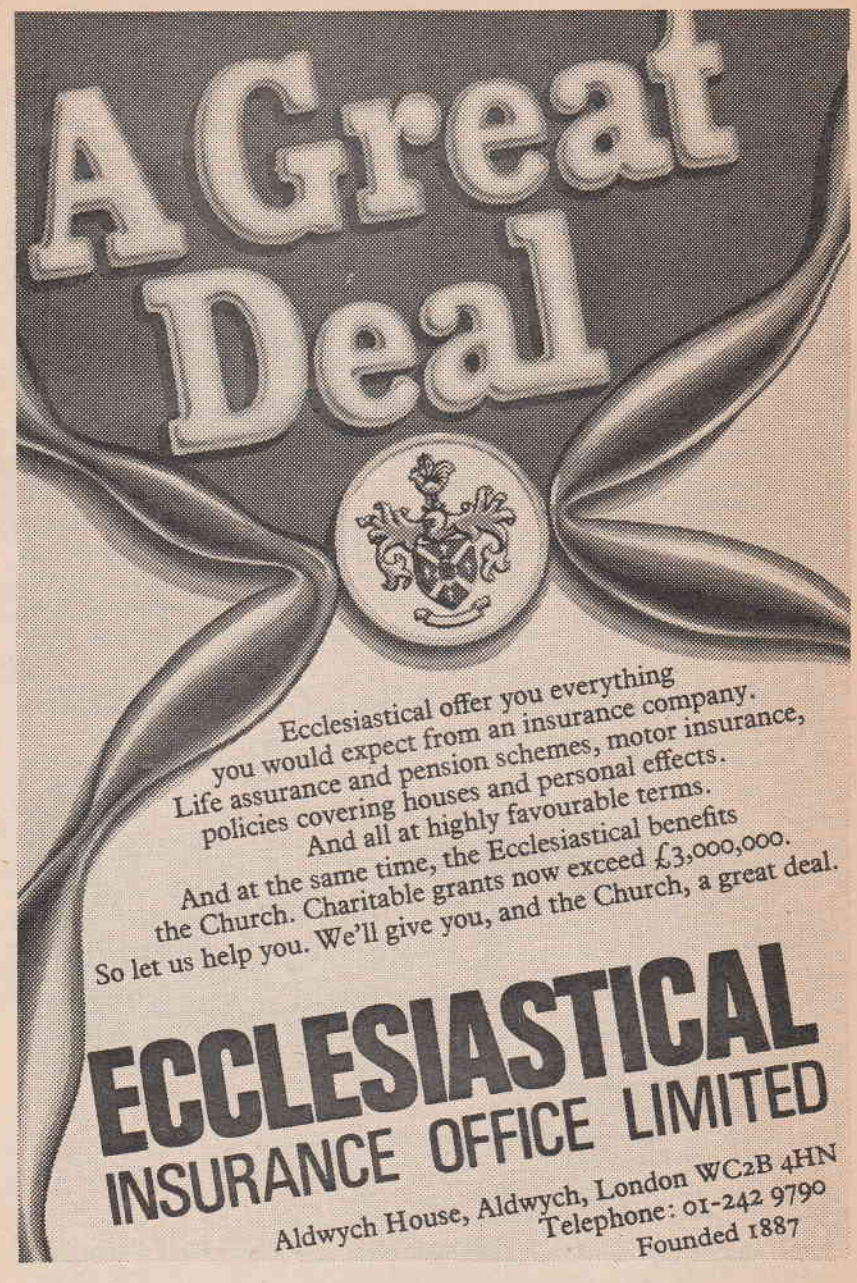
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LETTERS FROM FRIENDS

From Mr. and Mrs. Sidebottom :

" Barbara and I would like to say a most sincere " thank you " to our friends in St. Nicholas for the handsome garden seat which occupied pride of place in the removal van on 7th January. It now rests outside the lounge window of our new home near Newbury waiting for the arrival of better weather. It is also looking forward to accommodating any of our friends who visit us and who will of course be very welcome at any time. Our thanks are not only for the fine present but also for the fellowship we have enjoyed during the years at St. Nicholas."

From Mr. Bernard Haynes who lives at Somersham in Huntingdonshire :

" About a month ago I looked in the " dear old Church " and never have I seen a church kept so beautiful. All the seating looked to have been polished and the " Croke " memorial has been most beautifully restored. I was pleased to see the chandelier hanging back in the chancel."

(A letter like this is such an encouragement to all who do their best to keep the church looking lovely — **Thank you** to the " polishing party ! ")

BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP

Mrs. Lucas has one or two sets of notes for any who would care to join. Please get in touch with her at 9 Talbot Road.

VESTRY MEETING

History was made in St. Nicholas' Church on Sunday, 6th January—the Feast of the Epiphany—when the Vestry meeting was held **in church** after the Parish Communion. As a result of this the following were elected to serve as Churchwardens for the forthcoming year :

Vicar's Warden : Mr. V. Cardy, 110 Staunton Road, Headington.

People's Warden : Mr. B. G. Oliver, 13 Jack Straws Lane, Headington.

Deputy Warden . Mr. A. Raban, 9 Clays Close, Marston.

Mr. B. G. Oliver is also Church Treasurer and any matters concerning the finance of the Church can always be referred to him.

CARNIVAL 33 — Spring Holiday Weekend 1974

The Oxford Area Arts Council intends to hold a Carnival in the New Oxfordshire (Area 33) over the Spring Holiday Weekend beginning Saturday, 25th May, 1974.

The Council invites organisations of all kinds (e.g. schools, churches, village hall committees, community associations, and business organisations) as well as those specifically concerned with the arts, to become involved in this exciting project by organising their own events as part of the Carnival, events which it is hoped might spark off a continuing interest in the community.

The Council has a certain number of plans in hand, and many suggestions. Those interested, or who are prepared to offer help, are asked to contact the Carnival Co-ordinator :

Mrs. Faynia Williams,
24 Winchester Road. Oxford.
Tel. : Oxford 59651.

The Council organiser's letter ends with the words : " Let's beat the Crisis Gloom by planning a Carnival that will set Oxfordshire buzzing ! "

BE THANKFUL FOR SMALL MERCIES !

The Church Times reports that a recent visitor to a church read on the service paper " PARISH COMMUNION (Series 110). They were relieved to know it was only a typographical error !

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to those married recently—Philip Bird and Jennifer Barrett and to Raymond North and Betty Parker.
Welcome to Robert Michael Webb received into Christ's Family on the 13th January, 1974.

CHILDREN OF THE CHURCH

Thanks to all those children who helped to make our Family Service on the 1st Sunday in January such a happy one. We look forward to welcoming all parents and children to our next Family Service on 3rd February at 11.15 a.m.

Thankyou also to Karen Arthur and Anne Bolton for a gift of a pound to the Church—the proceeds of their carol singing.

CHURCH & LOCAL CLUBS, SOCIETIES, ETC.

CHURCH

Bell Ringers. Sec. : Mr. A. Gammon, 50 Oxford Road.

Brownies : Brownie Guider : Miss I. Read, 6 Cotswold Crescent - Tel. 47370

Cub Scout Leader : Mr. A. J. Roberts, 54 Cherwell Drive. Tel. 40879.

Girl Guides :

Parish Magazine : Deaconess O. Lodge, 5 Elsfield Road. Tel. 47956.

Mothers' Union : Hon. Sec. : Mrs. D. Cardy 110 Staunton Road, Headington. Tel. 61116.

Parochial Church Council. Sec. : Mrs. M. Harlow, Fir Tree House, Oxford Road.

Scouts. Scout Leader : Mr. N. J. Hughes, 53 Arlington Drive.
Group Scout Leader : Mr. W. Furber, 30 Colley Wood. Kennington. Tel. 34061.

Stewardship : Miss E. Warburton, Cross Cottage, Old Marston. Tel. 47339.

St. Nicholas, Marston Wives :
Group Leader : Mrs. R. B. Wells, 14 Raymund Road. Tel. 40357.
Secretary : Mrs. P. Lessiter, 62 Cherwell Drive. Tel. 43120.

Bible Reading Fellowship :
Sec. : Mrs. R. Lucas, 9 Talbot Road, Oxford. Tel. 55739.

Marston Times Editor : Mr. A. Raban, 9 Clays Close. Tel. 65130.

LOCAL

Allotment Association. Sec. : Mr. R. Bowen, 135 Oxford Road.

British Legion. Marston & District Sec. : Mr. F. Thompson, 5 Temple Street, Oxford.

Marston Players : Roy Harvey, 18 Minster Road. Tel. 41228

Marston Residents' Association : Secretary : Mr. G. A. Hine, 21 Raymund Road. Tel. 40482.

Over 60's Club : Secretary : Mrs. W. Tomlinson, 35 Oxford Road.

Parish Council. Chairman : Mr. J. E. Busfield, " Mallards," Mill Lane.

Parent-Teacher Association
St. Nicholas : Mr. Norman C. Jones, 52 Elms Drive.
Harlow School : Mrs. J. Hodgkins, 31 Elms Drive.

Women's Institute : Miss E. Warburton, Cross Cottage, Old Marston. Tel. 47339.

USEFUL INFORMATION

District Nurses, 6 Broughton's Close, Old Marston. Tel. Oxford 44417.

Health Visitor : Miss Kneisel. Phone KIDLINGTON 3502.

Infant Welfare Clinic : The Village Hall, Thursdays 2—4 p.m.

Library : The Village Hall, Old Marston.
Monday and Wednesday — Closed.
Tuesday — 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. 5.30 to 7.30 p.m.
Thursday — 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. 5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.
Friday — 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Over 60's Club. St. Nicholas Church Hall, Mondays at 2.45 p.m.

Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths : St. Nicholas' Church Hall, Elsfield Road, Old Marston. Thursdays 4 to 4.30 p.m.

Village Hall. All Bookings to Mr. Tasker, 35 Mill Lane, Old Marston.

St. Nicholas' Church Hall and Committee Room. All Bookings to Deaconess O. J. Lodge, 5 Elsfield Road, Old Marston. (47956).

Nursery School. All enquiries to : The Village Hall during School hours.

Play Group. All enquiries to : St. Nicholas Church Hall during school hours.

DIRECTORY

We hope all readers will patronise the shops advertised in this Directory where excellent service is assured :

Baby Linen, Children's and Ladies' Wear, Wool, Slippers :
"Joyce's," 18 Cherwell Drive, Marston.....Tel. 63846

Baby Linen and Ladies' Wear, Wool, etc. :
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Butcher (High Class) :
V. C. White (Marston) Ltd., 17 Salford Rd., Old Marston ...Tel. 43177

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Hayle's Self-Service, Oxford Road, Old Marston.....Tel. 49668

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Ladies' & Gent's :
S. T. Greenaway, 402 Marston Road, Oxford.....Tel. 48726
Graham Hair Fashions, 9 Salford Road.....Tel. 41632
(late night : Friday until 7.30 p.m.).
Michael, Hair Fashions, 16 Cherwell Drive, Marston.....Tel. 63842

Hardware Stores and Paraffin Delivery Service :
Marston Hardware, 8 Cherwell Drive, Marston .....Tel. 61668

Newsagents, Tobacconists, Confectioners and Stationers :
Baxters (Oxford) Ltd., 7 Old Marston Road, Oxford.....Tel. 42123
and 22 Cherwell Drive.
B. J. Norton, 13 Salford Road .....Tel. 48932

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S. Kushmar, 47 Ferry Road, Marston.....Tel. 47189

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W. R. Hammond & Son Ltd., 404 Marston Road, Oxford...Tel. 47706

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5 Oxford Road, Old Marston.....Tel. 47197

Wavy Line Groceries, Provision and Frozen Foods :
Cherwell Stores, 2 Cherwell Drive.....Tel. 61667

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