ST. MARY THE VIRGIN WITH ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL
MARLBOROUGH

Tower and Town

No. 16 DECEMBER 1961

Ring up good bells ! ring up ! ring down !
May Marlborough towers call Marlborough town.
John Betjeman

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FROM THE RECTOR

My Dear Parishioners,

I saw a newspaper cartoon the other day which showed two children talking : the caption read " What are you going to be, if you grow up ? " The jest is a grim one, but it gives particular relevance this year to the Advent season of repentance and of preparation for a day which is bound to come, sooner or later, for us all. Then Christmas comes and the grimness is resolved in good tidings of great joy—" Fear not, for unto you is born . . . . a Saviour ".

" *Fear not* ". In the Form of Service used for the commissioning of new ships in the Royal Navy there is a sort of Litany between the captain and his crew. It ends with three questions from the captain—" What do ye fear, seeing that God the Father is with you, that God the Son is with you, that God the Holy Spirit is with you ? " Each time the Ship's Company replies " We fear nothing ".

The happiness of Christmas comes across as it does because people give it to people : it is Person to Person—the way that God chose when He sent His Son, the only effective way of fulfilling the law of love. God will use that way in our Christmas Communion, when He will come to each one of us Himself. And He will rely on us to give of ourselves to others, Person to Person.

Christmas Eve falls this year on the last Sunday in Advent : there will be two alterations in the times of the Sunday services (page 4). I hope that families will include in their plans the 10.45 a.m. service with the Blessing of the Christmas Crib, and the Carol Service at 6 p.m.

My best wishes to you all for a joyous Christmas.

Your friend and Rector,

Francis Browne

DIARY FOR DECEMBER

Our regular Services on Sundays and week-days are listed inside the front cover. Additional Services and changes in time or place are given below. For forthcoming events see the *News : Views : Coming Events* page.

3rd ADVENT SUNDAY. (*The Parish, especially the Advent services*)
6th Wednesday. Holy Communion 7.30 a.m. P.C.C. meeting Church Cottage 8 p.m. (*The Parochial Church Council*)
8th Friday. **Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.** Holy Communion 7.30 a.m. (*Visitors to the Parish Church*)

10th ADVENT II. (*The Parish, especially the Bible Reading Fellowship*)
13th Wednesday. Holy Communion 7.30 a.m. (*Marriage Guidance Councils*)

17th ADVENT III. Parish Communion 9 a.m. (Martin Shaw setting). (*The Parish, especially the children*)
19th Tuesday. Holy Communion 10.30 a.m. St. Peter's. (*Those preparing for Ordination*)
20th Wednesday. Ember Day. Holy Communion 7.30 a.m. (*C.A.C.T.M.*)
21st Thursday. **St. Thomas, A.M.** Holy Communion 7.30 a.m. (*For Faith*)

24th ADVENT IV. Christmas Eve. Short Matins and Blessing of the Christmas Crib 10.45 a.m. Evensong (said) 5.30 p.m. Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols 6 p.m. (*The Parish and Christmas Communion*)



25th **CHRISTMAS DAY**
Midnight Eucharist (sung) 11.45 p.m. : St. Mary's
Holy Communion 6.30 a.m. (St. Mary's) ; 8 a.m. (St. Peter's), 11.45 a.m. (St. Mary's)
Choral Matins 10.45 a.m.
Evensong (said) 6 p.m.
(*Thanksgiving for the Incarnation*)
26th Tuesday. **St. Stephen M.** Holy Communion 11 a.m. St. Peter's. Transport. can be arranged by telling the Clergy. (*Thanksgiving for vigour offered to God*)
27th Wednesday. **St. John A.E.** Holy Communion 8 a.m. St. Mary's. (*Thanksgiving for age and learning offered to God*)
28th Thursday. **Innocents' Day.** Holy Communion 7.30 a.m. (*Thanksgiving for youth and innocence offered to God*)

31st SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS (*The Parish and thanksgiving for Blessings in* 1961)
Jan.
1st Monday. **Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord.** Holy Communion 7.30 a.m. (*Stewardship of Time in* 1962)
3rd Wednesday. Holy Communion 7.30 a.m. (*The Church of England Children's Society*)
6th Saturday. **Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord.** (*Thanksgiving for the wideness of God's mercy*)

Special Intentions at Holy Communion are printed in italics

PREPARING FOR HOLY COMMUNION



Whether we made our last Communion a few days ago, months ago, or more years ago than we care to remember, we all share the same need and duty: to prepare ourselves humbly and sincerely before we obey the bidding of our Lord to meet Him at the altar at Christmas.

This preparation has three parts to it: *Penitence* for our sins and the resolve to do better: *Thankfulness* to our Lord for dying for us and for the good things He has given us: *Petition* to Him first for the needs of others, then for ourselves.

Because we are so used to them, it isn't always easy to remember our sins —*what good things have I failed to do? what bad things have I done?*—so it is best to ask ourselves some questions, basing them on the Ten Commandments, or on the Sermon on the Mount. When we have thought it all out, we kneel down and tell God what our sins have been and how sorry we are. We shall see then how that beautiful prayer that comes before the Prayer of Consecration fits in—" We do not presume to come to this Thy table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness . . . " : and we can say it after our confession as part of our preparation.

Every time we come to Holy Communion we should think about these three things: we should know what we are specially thankful for, what we have to confess, what we specially need to pray about. This is called our " intention ".

We can do this the night before our Communion, though we may have been thinking it over for much longer. If it is difficult to get a quiet moment at home we can go into church to do it—the knowledge that countless people, who like ourselves have failed and started afresh, have come there to pray is a very real help. FRANCIS BROWNE

SUNDAY MORNING AT 10.45

When I wrote in our September number of *Tower and Town* about the *Parish Ladder*, I mentioned that one weakness of our present Sunday School arrangements was that the children, who are already well-taught at day school, experience little of the family worship on Sundays: and that they are liable to get the idea of worship as something you grow out of rather than into.

We have been considering how to put this right. Starting on Christmas Eve, the Fourth Sunday in Advent, we shall have the Sunday morning service of Matins at 10.45 a.m. to replace both Junior Sunday School at 10.15 and Matins at 11.15.

This 10.45 service, with the full Choir, will be the shorter form of Matins, ending at the third collect, with a variable pendant—either a short address mainly for the children of the Junior Sunday School (ages 7–11), or with children's classes after the grown-ups have left. I am confident that the grown-up members of the Matins congregation will find that the children help their worship, as undoubtedly they will help the children in theirs.

I know that there are parents who are wanting to join in this part of their children's upbringing and I am hopeful that this plan will help them to do so. This has been the very happy experience elsewhere and I am sure that it can be so here.

The Senior Sunday School, or Junior Confirmation Class, will continue to come to the 9 a.m. Holy Communion service as at present, this being a part of their preparation for Confirmation. Some parents bring younger children with them to the 9 a.m. service and I hope they will continue to do this: these children present no problem.

The Infants' Sunday School will also be at 10.45 a.m. so that older and younger children can continue to come together, though now, I hope, with their parents. On a few Sundays, as on Christmas Eve this year for instance, the Infants will join us in St. Mary's at 10.45 a.m.

FRANCIS BROWNE

NEWS :: VIEWS

THE CHRISTMAS SERVICES. As Christmas Day is on a Monday this year, Christmas Eve, of course, coincides with the Fourth Sunday in Advent. This being so there will be two changes in the usual times for the Sunday services. The Blessing of the Christmas Crib and the Children's Gift Service will be incorporated in Matins, instead of being in the afternoon. This service will be at 10.45 a.m. The Carol Service will be at 6 p.m., preceded by Evensong which will be said (not sung) at 5.30 p.m. Said Evensong takes about twenty minutes: if you arrive for the Carol Service before Evensong is ended do not wait out in the cold. You will not be interrupting the service if you come in quietly and take your seat.

I hope that everybody who is confirmed will use the Advent season, and very especially these last two services, as a way of preparing themselves for their Christmas Communion — the greatest possible Christmas gift for saints and sinners, and one which we cannot possibly refuse to accept. On Christmas Day there will be four services of Holy Communion: at midnight (11.45 p.m.), 6.30 a.m., 8 a.m. (St. Peter's) and 11.45 a.m. There will NOT be a celebration at 9 a.m. Matins will be at 10.45 a.m. and Evensong (said) at 6 p.m.

FRANCIS BROWNE

★

WORLD'S CHURCHMEN MEET IN DELHI November 18th—December 6th. The Third Assembly of the World Council of Churches is now in full swing. Last month *The Observer* wrote "Although born in the east, Christianity is regarded throughout Asia as a Western religion and suffers consequently from all the handicaps which afflict Westernism in the Asian scene. It required courage, therefore, to stage this great meeting of 1,000 delegates, representing 178 member-churches, in a predominantly Hindu land, where Christians number only six million out of 400 million. The member-churches range from the Orthodox Churches of the East to small island churches of the Pacific, from the American mid-West to newly independent countries of Africa". The Archbishops of Canterbury and York head the 55-strong British Anglican delegation. For the first time the Russian Orthodox Church has sent delegates; and Pope John has appointed Roman Catholic observers. The chief objects of the Assembly are to provide fresh light on the witness, service and *unity* of the Church, and— of incalculable importance—to launch the World Council's own programme of aid to the developing countries. Ways in which we can all pray, study and think about this, and so do our part, are set out in the World Council's pamphlet *Jesus Christ the Light of the World*, which is on sale in our churches.

COMING EVENTS

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A WORD IN TIME — LENT AND WEDDINGS. A wedding is an occasion for festivity and rejoicing: Lent is a season for abstinence and discipline. As far as possible church people arrange for weddings outside the Lent season; and this is a rule of the Church. Where hardship or substantial personal inconvenience would follow on a rigid insistence on this rule—as with Service men posted abroad, or holiday dates which are intractable—the incumbent uses his pastoral discretion and does his best to help those involved. He assumes that, as the parties wish to be married in church, they will readily understand that floral decoration of the church and peals from the tower are out of place during Lent. F.B.R.B.

★

CHURCH ALPHABET. *C is for* **Crib** . . . . St. Francis is reputed to have made the first Crib. For many centuries it has been the custom to place a representation of the crib or manger in which Jesus was laid at His birth, with a model of the Holy Child, in church on Christmas Eve, where it remains until the Octave Day of the Epiphany (January 13th). Figures of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph, cattle, angels and shepherds are included, the shepherds giving place to the Magi on the Feast of the Epiphany (January 6th).

And also for **Chasuble** . . . . the vestment, plain or coloured, which the priest wears over the alb (see September *Tower and Town*) at celebrations of the Holy Communion. It derives from the ordinary outdoor cloak worn in the days of the Early Church. It was originally much bigger, rather like a tent with a hole at the top, and the word *chasuble* actually comes from the Latin word for house —*casa*.

PERSONAL POSER

Until I was given a copy of the New English Bible the other day, I hadn't read the Bible since my school-days. Now I find that the four Gospels do not always agree: which one are we to believe?

The Church says that there is one Gospel only; there is only one revelation of God through Jesus Christ. We head the four Gospel books "The Gospel according to so'and so": just as you have one face and could be painted by four different artists, each of whom would notice and stress something unnoticed and unstressed by the others, so, very naturally, the four Evangelists wrote their books.

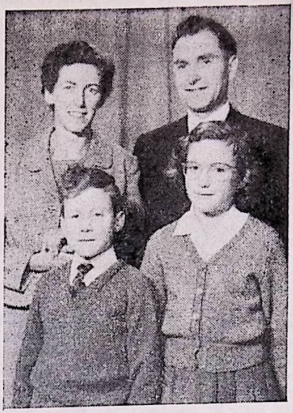
This being so, there are two things we can't do. Firstly we can't decide "which to believe" by just counting three or two against one. This is because Mark's Gospel was quite certainly known to both Matthew and Luke before they started to write: and John was familiar with some of the traditions used by the earlier three writers. So what occurs in two or three books may really go back to one book.

Secondly, we can't arrange these four artists and writers in an order of reliability. All the writers are the pen-men, not the pens, of the Holy Spirit and each has his own reason for writing his Gospel, his own interests and his own sympathies.

But as long as we keep this in mind we can safely say that as Mark was the earliest his writing is the least likely to be affected by later tradition: it is likely to be more original, and it seems more naive and less affected by literary form. But this is not to belittle the work of the Holy Spirit in the later writers "calling all things to your remembrance" and "leading you into all truth."

F.B.R.B.

If you have a Personal Poser which you would like answered on this page, send it to the Rector, giving your name and address, which will not be printed.



FAMILIAR FACES No. 16

THE HOPE FAMILY

This month we have "a family for Christmas", as we did last December. Here are the familiar faces of the Hopes. Henry Hope was transferred to the Marlborough branch of Lloyds Bank in 1949, lived for a time in Pewsey, but on settling in Marlborough soon found himself on the P.C.C. (1957) and a sidesman. He was a Visitor in the Stewardship Campaign and Covenants Secretary for our Planned Giving until he succeeded Walter Bedbrook as P.C.C. Treasurer last June. He saw service throughout the war from September 1939 to March 1946, and was in France and Germany with the Guards Armoured Division. When not banking or wrestling with our church finances, he finds time for tennis, badminton and the Men's Society. Alison Hope, who was trained at the Salisbury Diocesan Training College, has just gone back to teaching and is in charge of the Infants at Church Cottage. She also is fully occupied with church work —is a Magazine Distributor, Street Warden and Young Wife. Carolyn (10) and Nicholas (6) attend our church schools and we often see them with their parents at the Parish Communion service.

Rejoice and be merry
set sorrows aside;
Christ Jesus our Saviour
was born on this tide.



CHRISTMAS DINNER FIFTY YEARS AGO. *What has happened to our stomachs?* Starting off with Clear Oxtail Soup, they tackled Baked Fillets of Sole, toyed with Mutton Cutlets and went on to Braised Pigeons, before reaching the *piece de resistance*, the Roast Turkey with Baked Cauliflower, Potato Ribands and Braised Scalkale. Christmas Pudding of course came next, and Mince Pies, also Apple Fool and Cream, and the whole was rounded off with a nice Cheese Soufflé. So says Mrs. Beeton in 1911.

Two distinguished brothers, one an admiral and the other a bishop, were not on speaking terms. One day they met on the platform of a railway station, the admiral in uniform, the bishop wearing his apron. The bishop said to the admiral, "Excuse me, Stationmaster, can you tell me the platform for the London train?" The admiral replied, "No madam, I can't".

DUMB CHARADES DE LUXE. *The best for Christmas parties.* Any number and all ages can play, no speeches have to be made up, and no "word" remembered: in fact there is no speaking at all. Pick up two sides, one to watch and guess while the other acts. Choose a proper name of four letters only, then choose a "scene" for each *letter* of the name. The scene must be either from history or fiction—anything from the ancient Greeks to Major Gargarin: it doesn't matter as long as it includes well-known names—*this is essential*. For instance, if the chosen name is *NICK*, scene I can be about Nero (or Nelson or Nell Gwynn); *I* could be Incas (plenty of scope there with human sacrifices and so forth); *C*, Canute; and *K* could be Krushchev.

Collect some clothes, such as dust-sheets, the eiderdown off Gran's bed, the tea-cosy and Auntie's fur tippet, and some properties—clothes horse, a broom or two, the vacuum cleaner, saucepan lids, etc.—and you are all set to go. But don't be content with the bare facts: Canute shouldn't just be Dad sitting in an armchair wearing a cake-tin for a crown. Let there be lots of oily courtiers too, and the children heaving up and down under sheets for waves. Nero shouldn't merely fiddle while Rome burns—he can hold a contest between lions and Christians first.

One last word. If your team of, say, six people chooses a name with an A in it and decides to do Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves, be sure to cast yourself as Ali: you will get a real kick out of watching the other five go round and round and round . . . . J.B.



TO MAKE "THE MARLBOROUGH CAKE". *From E. Smith's "Compleat Housewife" published in* 1736. Take eight eggs, yolks and whites, beat and strain them, and put to them a pound of sugar beaten and sifted: beat it three-quarters of an hour together: then put in three-quarters of a pound of flour well dried, and two ounces of carraway seeds; beat it all well together, and bake it in a quick oven in broad tin-pans. *Exciting? Hmm . . . . Better turn to WHAT'S COOKING on page* 9.

Bernard Shaw invited Winston Churchill to the first night of one of his plays. The invitation, sent on a postcard, ended "Bring a friend—if you have one". Churchill replied, also on a postcard, "Cannot come to first night. Will come to second night—if you have one".



FAMILIAR FACE ! *Father Christmas.* Sometimes known as Father Christmas, sometimes as Santa Claus—just a shortened form of St. Nicholas—his familiar face is always the same, though it may be Dad who lurks behind it. St. Nicholas was born around 300 A.D. and became Bishop of Myra in Asia Minor. He was fond of giving unexpected presents—" What a surprise, just what I wanted "—and became the patron saint of children. He heard one day of a poor man who had three daughters. As they were too poor and ragged to have any hope of marrying, their father decided to sell them into slavery so that they could, at least, get enough to eat. When Nicholas heard this he went to their hut when it was dark and threw in a bag of gold three nights in succession. There are nearly 500 churches in England dedicated to St. Nicholas, which puts him seventh in order of popularity for dedications.

F.B.R.B.



A CHRISTMAS TABLE DECORATION. Take a round biscuit tin lid, or a sandwich tin, 6" to 10" across ; 4 red candles ; 4 round medium potatoes ; a small packet of Tide, small sprigs of holly, mistletoe, etc. Cut a small hole in the potatoes to fit the base of your candles, slightly flatten the opposite side and press lightly on the edge of your tin : this will give you the curve. Deepen the curve with a knife and the potato should sit firmly on the tin edge. Mix a little Tide and water to the consistency of breaderumbs, cover the middle of the tin to about ¼" thick. A " scene " can now be added—a pond (handbag mirror), snowman, reindeer, etc. (last year's cake decorations)—but do this at once as the " snow " hardens quickly. Now arrange your potatoes at equal distances round the tin edge and fix in the candles. Sharpen the ends of the sprigs of holly, mistletoe and ivy, and stick them into the potatoes, covering them completely. Add a Christmas tree ball or bell or a red bow for extra sparkle. Keep all this fairly flat and away from the candles so that there is no risk of fire as they burn low. The long red flower candles last well and do not drip. The moisture in the potatoes keeps this decoration fresh for a long time and the candles can be renewed as necessary.

MARY BROWNE





TOP POPS FOR CHRISTMAS. Elvis Presley is back with a rock number in *Latest Flame* : this is sure to hold first place for some weeks.

A new disc by Bobby Vee, *Take Good Care of My Baby*, has risen swiftly. This is a slow beat number with good lyrics.

Bambino, a Christmas number by the Springfields, is sure to make the charts at this time of the year.

There are several recordings of *Tower of Strength*, but we think that Paul Raven's version is the best.

Adam Faith's *The Time Has Come* is rather different from his usual style, and we think much improved.

" CAROL & CO."

★ ★ ★

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Nowell, sing all we may,
Because the King of all kings
Was born this blessed day !

TOPICS OF THE TOWN

IT'S UP TO US !
M.A.D.O.S.

Everyone who has seen the last two productions by M.A.D.O.S. must have been most agreeably impressed by the expertise with which the Society is tackling its job. The lively tempo of the acting, sets which are a pleasure to look at (nothing shoddy or make-do), a clever use of the small stage, the eye-catching posters, all add up to a truly praiseworthy aim at high standards. Marlborough should be proud of its dramatic society and prepared to show its pride by giving the Society its maximum support.

Two things are needed—the usual two: people and money. More acting members would enable the Society to attempt plays with more meat in them than the ubiquitous drawing-room comedy, to revive the operatic section, put on a Spring as well as an Autumn production. Men of all ages are needed and girls to play leading parts. Money is needed *now* to keep the Society out of debt: honorary membership costs only 10/6 a year, a vice-presidency 21/-.

It is a tonic to feel one is part of "a good show"—a tonic M.A.D.O.S. is now administering to Marlborough: we should accept it with gratitude and be prepared to pay for it.

A REAL HOME: COOMBE END HOUSE

Coombe End House is a County Council home for the elderly, a home in every sense of the word, warm, comfortable and happy. The residents are cheerful and bright—twenty-two women and ten men. Most of the active ones take on little duties, just as they would if living in their own homes. They also take a lively interest in town affairs.

The residents who are able to attend their own churches do so, and for those not so fit there are Sunday services in the home. Boys of Marlborough College help with these services every Sunday morning during term, and the Rev. Maurice Hillier helps during the holidays. Every six weeks some young people from Swindon visit with a service of song.

Many local people take a deep interest in our home, and concerts, outings and garden parties are arranged by many of the town's clubs and societies. During the autumn we have had an entertainment by the Marlborough College Light Entertainment Society (October 28th), a Fireworks Display by the Young Farmers' Club (November 4th) and a grand Christmas Party at the Town Hall, arranged by Mr. Quarterman (November 25th). Christmas time is one large happy family gathering: the home is decorated, there are presents on the Christmas Tree, and of course all the goodly Christmas fare.

Next year we are hoping to arrange a Garden Party in the grounds, when we hope to meet friends who are interested in the older generation. Meanwhile we are very glad of this chance to thank all those who in the past have taken such a kindly interest in Coombe End House, and to assure a warm welcome to anyone who would like to visit the home at any time.

L. H. Moore
County Welfare Officer

SCHOOL NEWS

St. Peter's Boys' School

At half-term we were sorry to say goodbye to Mrs. Pocock. In her place we were glad to welcome Mrs. Mackelden. We are all hoping to go to the performance given by the Children's Theatre in the Town Hall on December 5th. We are practising hard for the District Carol Festival for Schools, which is being held on Tuesday, December 19th, in the College Chapel: over 500 children are taking part in the Festival, when Mr. Robert Ferry, the Director of Music at the College, will be conducting. All parents are cordially invited.

R. V. Huxley

Marlborough Grammar School

With the winter term well under way, the school societies have begun to function. The Drama Society has begun rehearsals for Sheridan's "The Rivals" which it hopes to produce in the near future. The Debating Society had a joint meeting with Marlborough College when the motion was a quote from Disraeli—"Youth is a blunder, manhood a struggle, old age a regret": the motion was lost. Other societies which have started their autumn programmes are

the Music Society, History Society, Hobbies Club, Aircraft Society and Discussion Group. GRAMMARIAN II

FIRE !

R. P. Smith, Station Officer,
Wiltshire Fire Brigade, Marlborough

It is still with us, man's primordial enemy, uncontrolled fire ! As our way of life becomes more and more mechanised, fire risks appear to increase. Every year fire takes a growing toll of human life and property. Men and women are maimed, children die, great industries are destroyed and millions of pounds are lost by the flames that wreck and consume all that stands in their way.

The real tragedy of these losses is that many of them could have been prevented or minimised by care, forethought and a little knowledge. For fire needs three things—(1) something to burn, (2) heat to bring it to flash point, and (3) oxygen to feed the flames. Take away any one of these and your fire will go out.

But far better than this, let us prevent the fire from starting. Oxygen of course is always with us and so are combustible materials. Therefore we have only to consider *heat* and that, with a little forethought, can be kept under control. I could not hope to give you all the causes of fire, and even if I could you would not remember them, but here are a few of the most common :

Children playing with matches. This cause is very high on the list. Keep matches out of reach and see that children never use them.

Paraffin oil heaters. Place them out of draughts—i.e., in the corner of a room, away from furnishings and where they cannot be knocked over. If one should catch fire a bucket of water will extinguish it. Do not attempt to carry it outside—you will probably start other fires as well as giving yourself severe burns.

Fires through electrical equipment are quite common, especially where amateurs have been at work. It is quite easy to get light or power from point A to point B, but only professional knowledge ensures safety, so do not overload your wiring by placing too many appliances on it by the use of adaptors.

Make sure that all fires have a proper guard. Old ladies' and children's clothes catching fire have caused many dreadful accidents.

These are a few of the most common causes of fire and with a little care most can be avoided. If, however, you do have a fire, get everyone out, close doors and windows, and call the Fire Brigade. This is a public service and we shall be ready to help you. R. P. SMITH

FISHING

Last summer a Marlborough fisherman took his son to Scotland and sent him off to fish a famous trout water with a Scotch ghillie. The father met them as they landed and asked how the boy was shaping. " Beautiful—he throws a bonny line " said the ghillie, " but God was verra maireiful to the fush ".

F.B.R.B.

WHAT'S COOKING ?

Christmas Cake—of course !

1 lb. currants ; 1 lb. sultanas ; ½ lb. chopped raisins ; 4 ozs. mixed peel ; 2 ozs. glace cherries cut into 3 ; 2 ozs. almonds finely chopped ; ½ lb. butter ; ½ lb. sugar ; ¾ lb. S.R. flour ; 6 eggs ; 2 teasp. mixed spice ; grated rind and juice of lemon ; pinch of salt ; a little milk if necessary ; wine glass of rum or brandy, optional but an improvement.

Almond Paste : 1 lb. ground almonds ; 1 lb. caster sugar ; yolks 3 eggs ; vanilla essence and lemon juice. *White icing* : 1½ lbs. icing sugar ; whites 3 eggs ; lemon juice.

Cream butter and sugar to a frothy cream texture, add eggs one at a time to avoid curdling, add flour and other ingredients gradually, adding a little milk to give the mixture a soft dropping consistency. Bake in a moderate oven for 2 hours, then reduce heat to slow, and cook for another 2 hours, or until cooked. Decorate with almond paste and white icing. The proof of this cake has always been in the eating.

Contributed by Mrs. Gladys Mundy

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FAMILY NEWS

Weddings of the Month. *December 9th*: Godfrey James Evans and Mary Jean Page, St. Mary's, 12.30 p.m. *December 26th*: Robert David Clements and Maureen Kay Raisey, St. Mary's, 2.30 p.m.

* * * *

Three Gifts to the Church. The donations sent in lieu of flowers in memory of the late *Mrs. Margaret Lewis* are to provide a small Litany Desk for use at St. Mary's during the intercessions of Evensong.

The legacy of £25 bequeathed by the late *Miss Nellie Stagg* to St. Peter's will be put towards the cost of a new carpet in the Sanctuary.

The third gift is a new fair linen cloth for the altar of the Lady Chapel in St. Mary's. In 1923 *Una Lewis's sister Winnie* worked the cloth which we now use. Two years ago *her daughter Anne* came from New Zealand to visit Una and noticed that the cloth was beginning to wear. She took the measurements back to New Zealand and has embroidered a very beautiful replacement which we are delighted to have, and which we shall use for the first time at Christmas.

* * * *

Hassocks for St. Mary's. In the absence of *Mrs. Gladwin*, who is visiting her son in Mombasa, *Mrs. Saunders* has kindly agreed to act as Treasurer for the Kneelers Fund, and any donations should be sent to her at 69 London Road.

* * * *

Flowers in St. Peter's. We are glad to say thank-you for the flowers given and arranged by friends of St. Peter's each week. Many visitors to the town enjoy a quiet rest there and are cheered to see this work being done for the Church. Three of the regular helpers have now left the parish, so there will be some vacant Sundays to fill in 1962. Anyone who would like to help, either by donation or by bringing and arranging her own flowers, should contact *Mrs. Brooks*, 60 *High Street*, who will be compiling the new rota at the end of December.

The illustration on page 3 is reproduced by kind permission of the Religious Education Press from their publication "Here We Offer", price 9d., which is on sale on our Literature Stalls.

IN THE HOME

THE BED-TIME STORY



One of the joys of motherhood for me was the feeling of closeness I could get from reading aloud to my small daughter. The eagerly awaited bed-time story always had to be chosen with great care. A child should go to sleep feeling quite happy and secure.

The books I found most suitable, and which she most enjoyed, were the "Bible Books for Small People" by Muriel Chalmers and Mary Entwhistle (S.C.M. Press 2/6 each). Whenever I could I bought one of these. In time my little daughter told her friends about the books and they would come to ask me to read to them.

The book which gave the most pleasure and enlightenment was "When Jesus was a Little Boy". The pictures, which are drawn on alternate pages to illustrate the meaning of a few sentences, show Jesus as a boy playing with his friends, just as little boys do to-day. But "Baby Moses", another title in the series, caused distress the first time I read it, as my daughter felt so sad and upset that the baby was left alone in the bullrushes. I had to hide this book until she was older.

After reading one of these books each evening it was so easy to follow with the bedside prayer.

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DECEMBER

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2nd Sunday : London Road 10–24
3rd Sunday : Mount Pleasant
4th Sunday : Poulton Cottages
5th Sunday : "The street I live in"

"O Heavenly Father, bless our neighbours, that they and we may share Thy heavenly calling; through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen".

The Wardens for these streets are :
1 Mrs. Washbrook
2 Mrs. R. Smith
3 Miss Joy
4 Mrs. Bedbrook

HOLY BAPTISM

Oct. 13th Denise Ann Pearce
Bruce Roger Moody
Joanne Patricia Rixon
Lesley Anne Girling
22nd June Lucia Rickard

HOLY MATRIMONY

Oct. 28th Geoffrey Selby to
Marjorie Cook

R. I. P.

Oct. 20th William Henry Dobson (76) of 2 St. John's Close
23rd Ernest Walter Archer (83) late of 2 Mount Pleasant
Nov. 7th Frederick Hale (89) of 23 Lainey's Close



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The P.C.C. has authorised the Publications Committee to start a small library in St. Mary's, and I am glad to give the experiment my blessing. The books are kept in the new shelves by the Literature rack. There is no fixed charge for borrowing, but we hope that from time to time borrowers will put something in the Literature wall-safe as a thank-offering.

Miss Barbara Watson and Miss Irene Phillips are the honorary Librarians, and will be available after Evensong on Sundays to give any help that may be needed. But books may be borrowed at all times when the church is open : the borrower is only asked to write the title of the book borrowed and his or her name and address in the exercise book provided for the purpose.

A list of books needed for the Library will be posted on the notice-board above the shelves and gifts of these books will be welcome. Anyone who would like to give books not on the list should first contact Miss Watson at the White Horse Bookshop. More "Library news" next month.

FRANCIS BROWNE

CHURCH BUILT IN TWO MONTHS

A new church built of mud and wattle, with five magnificent forest timbers supporting a thatched roof, was recently completed at Angubi, near the Congo border of Sudan. All the building work was done by Sudanese Christians, who cut the necessary material in the forest and carried it to the site on their own heads. No outside aid was given, either in money or materials, and the whole work was finished in two months. In five months nearly 250 people have been baptised in this new church.

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PARISH ROUND-UP

ST. MARY'S GUILD WITH THE MOTHERS' UNION AND THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

Forthcoming Events

Our December meeting on December 18th takes the form of a Christmas Party for the Over 60's Club at the Town Hall. All our members bring something extra towards the tea and it is usually a most festive occasion. We lead the carol-singing and everyone joins in the choruses. This year the Young Wives hope to join the party with a Handbell team.

Handbell ringing has proved most popular and we are very grateful to Mr. Michael Harper who has been instructing us. If we reach a sufficiently high standard, we hope to visit Coombe End House and, possibly, the Hospitals at Christmas, and to take the Handbells with us when we go carol-singing in aid of the Pestalozzi Children's Village.

M.B.

MEN'S SOCIETY

At the November meeting the Rev. P. F. Chapman gave an interesting talk on the *Parson's Job*, which he described as teaching, leading his people in worship, and caring for them.

On December 7th we are to hear about St. Mary's Vestry Minutes of about one hundred years ago from the man who knows more than anyone else about local history—Mr. A. R. Stedman, and we shall certainly have a thrilling evening. Here is a chance for more men to join: all will be welcomed in Toc H Room at 7.45 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month.

GEOFFREY CHILTON

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP NEWS

The Youth Fellowship has applied for affiliation to the Wiltshire Association of Mixed Clubs. This move will make it possible to run more club activities and to combine with other similar clubs. A senior member, Terry Seaborne, accompanied me to a two-day conference held at Philipps House, Dinton. There were splendid talks and demonstrations and it was most helpful to meet Leaders of other church clubs who have the same difficulties to overcome.

The Archdeaconry Youth Committee invited me to attend their meeting on November 7th. Much is planned for 1962, some gay, some serious. As details come to hand I will ask the Editor for space. In the meantime, can anyone teach the members of our Fellowship to dance? Ballroom dancing has priority, but any instruction would be welcome!

M. HARRISON

A TUESDAY NIGHT AT THE TOC H ROOM

An elderly couple walked slowly along Silverless Street. Seeing the lights in the Toc H Room they glanced in the window. Their gaze was transfixed by the scene before them.

Seemingly thousands of weirdly clad teenagers packed the room. Above the scream of riotous laughter could be heard the wild beat of electric guitars. A mixed bag of teenagers were playing a game resembling darts, but it was hard to tell if they were aiming at the board or the onlookers. Half a dozen youths were attempting to get a game of table tennis going, but forty jiving feet do not improve the shape of a table-tennis ball. A budding pianist attempts to render "Exodus" but is somewhat hampered in his efforts by a pair of feet resting nonchalantly on the key-board, and of course the inevitable missing keys. In spite of overwhelming difficulties an eightsome reel is progressing, although this too seems about to be swept into the mad swirl of the jive.

At this the elderly gentleman turns to his wife and whispers softly, "I wish we were sixteen". FRANCIS R. PEARCE

PARISH PRAYER No. 14

A Christmas Prayer . . . .

Heavenly Father, in all the happiness of Christmas we ask for Thy comfort and blessing upon those who are lonely and have no one to care for them; for the sick and suffering, and those in sorrow. May they hear with us the glad tidings of the angels, and out of their pain and grief be emabled to rejoice, and to give thanks for the Saviour, Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

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