

DECEMBER, 1958

THE PARISH PAPER

Puttenham & Long Marston with Wilstone

Christmass, Long Marston: 7.30 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. (Sung).
Wilstone: 8.15 a.m.

While the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ was but a laying aside of His life as Man, the Incarnation and the coming in the flesh to Bethlehem was a laying aside of His life as God, so that in a sense Bethlehem was a greater sacrifice than Calvary. So it is that when we say or sing the Creed at Holy Mass it is not at the words "And was crucified for us" but at the words "And was incarnate" that through the centuries all knees have been asked to bend. At no time is our genuflection in the Creed more vividly dramatic than when on Christmas Day we are offering our worship so to say at the Manger Throne.

Our many thanks to everyone who helped in any way whatever in making a success of the final effort in connection with the destroyed school. As a result Mrs. J. M. Gregory paid £50.2s.1d. net profit to the School Managers. That I think makes the last time we need come to the village for help for undoing the work of the bomb dropped in January, 1941. Mrs. Gregory, after pick-a-backing the Nursery Association all the 30 years or so of its existence, immediately shouldered the bombed School when the Welfare State took over the Nursing in 1947. Without her I cannot think what we should have done. Perhaps never have started. And now the finish is in sight. A very big "Thank-you" to Mrs. Gregory.

Within a day or two of each other, both Wilstone and Long Marston were bereft by death of their Postmasters. Mr. Lear, who came to the district only in the post-war period, was Wilstone's elected representative, both on the Parish and the District Councils. Mr. and Mrs. Bates had already been in Long Marston 13 years when I came here in 1931, and I found both of them long firmly established each in his and her own special niche in the life of the local community. To Mrs. Bates many years of restful retirement will be the wish of all of us.

Yes, though half a moment! You can still buy a Biro, or a cough-drop, or a comic post-card and the like at her shop in Wheeler's Yard.

Can you imagine a regiment without a commanding officer, or a ship without a captain, or a school without a head, or even a game of football without a referee, or a cricket side without a captain? No, without a recognised centre of authority any organisation finds itself in chaos. Well knowing this our Lord when He was founding His Church appointed for it a head. It is very clear from the New Testament that Peter was given a headship. Our Lord singled out Simon Peter from the Apostles and spoke to him in a way that He spoke to none of the others. Among many other things He committed to Peter His own keys, that is His own authority, and gave him the universal power of binding and loosing, that is to say all powers necessary to the well-being of the Church. Since the Church was to last till the end of time the Power of the Keys was to be handed down to his successors of whom John XXIII is the latest, and who during recent weeks, together with his pre-decessor lately deceased, has been so many times named in the Press and on the air.

BAPTISMS

At Long Marston :

- Sept. 7.—Patricia Stephanie Jeffery.
Sept. 21.—Christopher Paul Maybourne.
 Rosemarie Anne Dumpleton.
Sept. 28.—Sandra June Newens.

MARRIAGE

- Sept. 20.—John Victor Gulliver and Evelyn Anne Chapman.

BURIAL

- Sept. 13.—Nancy Kate Furnival. 36 years.
Oct. 16.—Joseph Alfred Bates. 74 years.