MARCH, 1959

THE PARISH PAPER

Puttenham & Long Marston with Wilstone

Easter Day. 7.30 a.m. Long Marston. 8.30 a.m. Wilstone.
Low Sunday. April 5th. 8 a.m. Puttenham. Otherwise as usual.

"Henry's desire to divorce his wife, objections from Rome, and eventually the Reformation." Thus Mr. Savage in his History of Puttenham sums up the breakaway of the Provinces of Canterbury and York from the Christ-appointed office of Key-Bearer held by St. Peter and his successors. The break all centred on Anne Boleyn's baby, Elisabeth, whose portrait in the fullness of years hangs out on the sign-board at "The Queen's Head" in Marston. Ever since in 1527 the King's passion for Anne Boleyn was first kindled the King's wish to be rid of the Queen grew steadily. And the King grew more and more restive as he failed to obtain from the Pope anything except a statement that his marriage to Queen Catherine was valid, and could in no way be set aside. In January 1533 his restiveness gave place to hustling. The King was now in a hurry. On January 25th 1533 he secretly made a bigamous marriage with Anne Boleyn. Seven months later on September 7th Anne Boleyn bore him a daughter. Between these two dates the King moved swiftly. On March 30th Thomas Cranmer, of the King's choosing, was consecrated Archbishop of Canterbury. On May 28th in order to be conveniently near the Queen, living now in enforced retirement at Ampthill the other side of Leighton Buzzard, the Archbishop's court sat at Dunstable, and the Archbishop in subservience to the King pronounced the marriage between the King and Catherine to be null and void. A day or two later at Lambeth he announced the marriage between the King and Anne Boleyn to be valid. On June 1st Anne Boleyn was crowned Queen in Westminster Abbey. On July 11th the Pope declared the marriage between the King and Anne Boleyn to be null and void. (Three years later Anne Boleyn had fallen from favour, and on the King's order was beheaded on May 19th, 1536). Such is the history of the breakaway of the Church of England from Rome. It is not a pretty story.

Not too late for a line of welcome to Miss Bowdery. She matriculated before her call-up for service in the A.T.S. during which she worked as a laboratory attendant in a hospital pathological department. On demobilisation she entered a Training College, and on qualifying as a certificated teacher she was appointed to a Church School in Oxfordshire, and held this post from 1948-1958, and comes to us with the sure touch of a fully experienced teacher. We welcome her very warmly. On welcomes, what a welcome will be waiting for Carol Bignell from her two sisters when she comes from hospital. Meanwhile sympathy to her parents in the anxiety that has been theirs. Mrs. Robinson had been in failing health for some time, but no one in conversation with her a few days before her collapse would have realised from her cheerfulness the very grave character of her malady. It could not have been other than a sense of relief for her children and sisters when it ended as rapidly as the doctors had predicted with no period of prolonged suffering. Practical help, without any selective picking and choosing, to anyone anywhere was always forthcoming for anyone wanting help. I should say that never in her life has she ever refused to lend a hand. A topic of conversation at the moment is the departure shortly of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Maple. Mr. Maple is every ounce of him a countryman, but he will still have a not too distant sight of fields, hedges and ditches, though they will never come up to the ditches, hedges and fields of Wilstone and Long Marston. Both belong equally to both villages. A native of Marston married a native of Wilstone, set up home in Wilstone, and half way to their Golden Wedding moved to Marston. From such an ideal marriage that theirs has been it is an easy jump to our Easter list of brides and bridegrooms. Philip Shurvell and Joan Gregory, Jean Webb and her fiancé from Wingrave, Eric Jeffery and Hilda Walker, George Brackley and his bride from County Waterford. Every happiness be theirs, and God's blessing on all of them.

BURIAL
At Wilstone

Jan. 10.—May Robinson, 61 years.

The Plaistow Press, E.15