



"Fear not little flock - it is the Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom."

Christmas, 1969

St. Mary's Vicarage,
LEAMINGTON SPA.

Wishing you a happy and blessed Christmas
and New Year,

from

PAT and MARION ~~ASHE~~

* * * *with our love*

You may like some news of the family.

Lois (nearly 19) is training as a nurse at Guy's Hospital.

Robert and John (nearly 17) are probably in their last year at Christ's Hospital.

Jane (nearly 12) is at school at St. Michael's, Limpsfield.

Andrew (same age) is at Warwick School, and we hope may join his brothers at Christ's Hospital

Ruth is 10 and at home. She goes to Sydenham Junior School.

David (nearly 7) is at Sydenham Infants' School.

Mrs. Johnston (Marion's Mother) is still living in Godalming, but spending Christmas with us. She was sorry not to be able to go out to Egypt for the unveiling of the memorial plaque to Bishop Johnston.

Marion has written about her time there.

Pat is busy with the Parish and Project Vietnam Orphans. We would be grateful if you would hold up in the presence of God the children in the orphanages in Vietnam, and those who are with families in this country.

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Marion's Visit to Cairo

It was a great joy returning to Egypt (after 15 years) for the unveiling and dedication of a plaque in Cairo Cathedral in memory of my Father - Bishop Frank Johnston.

I left England on a bitterly cold day at the end of October. Four hours later I emerged from a V.C.10 into a glorious warm evening and, surrounded by desert and Arabic voices, I felt as if I had never been away!

This trip had been made possible through the generosity of my Mother's brother and his wife - Ray and Ilsa Head. I am so grateful to them, and to Pat, who was willing to cope so nobly with the home and half-term holidays!

I have brought back some happy memories:

The warm and loving welcome I received from Egyptians and British alike.

Ida Barlow, who looked after us so wonderfully in the Bishop's House where Peter and Phyllis Heartfield and I stayed. The kindness of Canon and Mrs. Butcher.

Catherine Penny, who took me to visit the C. M. S. Welfare Centre in Bulac, where I saw babies, mothers, toddlers, young children and girls' classes, all thriving and happy. The lovely embroidery is still being done there.

The Rev. Assiz Wassif and his wife, Amassel, who gave me a great welcome in their flat in Bulac - also a great lunch!

A visit to Old Cairo, where I met again Archdeacon Adeeb Shammass, and attended an Arabic service in the Gairdener Memorial Church.

Two visits to the Mouski with Marie Habib and Phyllis Heartfield. We so enjoyed ourselves that we had to ration our visits for fear of spending too much! The Mouski has not changed and is still as fascinating as ever.

Tea with Judge and Mrs. Brinton, who radiate joy and friendship - and the kindness of the Canadian Ambassador and his wife who asked several of us at the Cathedral to dinner one evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Habib Said are old friends, and they also gave me a great welcome.

It was good also to meet Canon Ishaq MUSAAD. His wife had to go into hospital for an operation, and we pray for her quick recovery. Also good to meet the Rev. Colin Chapman.

The United Arabic Evensong in the Cathedral on the 2nd November was a thrilling event for me.

I met the Archbishop in Jerusalem and Mrs. Appleton just before the Service. They were both so very kind. The Archbishop thoughtfully asked me to unveil the plaque while he dedicated it. Later, in his sermon, he preached from 1 Peter 5, v. 2-4, and he spoke about people needing Pastoral care today just as much as they did in our Lord's time - the diseases of the mind and spirit were now even more widespread.

"I have compassion on the crowd ..." our Lord said. He dealt with their sins, fears, guilt complexes and their divided personalities. He called to them to let Him be their guide, shepherd, friend - to lead them in right and satisfying paths - to meet their deepest needs and to take them with Him to God."

"The future of the Cathedral is still uncertain. Whatever it may be, the war years were its great opportunity, its justification and its glory. The Lord has his vocation for the little Christian community in Egypt - we will trust Him to guide and use us."

After the Service we met for a cup of tea in the Hall, and it was good to see so many who had known and loved my Father and Mother.

One of the last memories I have of Cairo was a Quiet Day conducted by the Archbishop. He led us to the Throne of Grace, and in the atmosphere of war which surrounded us it was wonderful to be quiet and to listen for the "Still small voice."