

St Nicholas, Marston and St Thomas of Canterbury, Elsfield

MARSTON TIMES

February 2020

stnicholasmarston.org.uk

30p

If you were given an extra day with no strings attached, with unlimited money and resources at your fingertips, what would you do? Where would you go?

One part of me would like to go back to when I was 17 and go whitewater rafting in the Swiss Alps,



but this time with my family in tow. Another part of me would quite like to escape to a quiet beach - somewhere hot, sunny and secluded - with no

Internet and no phone to distract me. Both of these seem like appealing ways of spending my extra day, but let's be honest: neither are likely to happen.

This year we all get an extra day, on 29 February, as we do every four years. Of course, there are strings attached and there isn't an unlimited pot of money that goes with this day, but in theory it is an extra day because we are in a Leap Year. Not everyone is thrilled by this; for example my brother said to me "since we're working an extra day, does that mean we get paid more or get given an extra bank holiday?"

Before we wonder what to do with our extra day, perhaps we need to ask why we have it. Why is it that every four years we have a Leap Year? (Get ready for a science bit). The Solar year (earth going around the sun) is 365.2422 days long, a length which no calendar year can accommodate; but by adding up the 0.24s over four years we ensure that the months consistently match up with the seasons. The first Leap Year in the modern sense in Britain was 1752. In that year the Gregorian calendar, originally instituted by Pope Gregory XIII, in 1582, was adopted and we 'lost' 11 days from the month of September.

After 1752 we adopted the system still in use, where an additional day is inserted in February in years wholly divisible by four, other than years ending in 00, with the exception of those divisible by 400, like 2000, which are still Leap Years. Are you with me still? Or do you find this all too confusing?

The origins of the modern calendar as we know it date back to the Romans. Julius Caesar introduced the Julian calendar and even tried a 'year of confusion' in 46 BC; that year was 455 days long in the hope that it would sort out the divergence in seasons and months that had occurred - and thank goodness this didn't catch on! Julian's Calendar didn't accurately reflect the time the Earth takes to orbit the sun - so in theory it was as useless and unlikely as my idea to go back in time for whitewater rafting!

I find it interesting to revisit the history of the Leap Year and see that it hasn't been added by accident or in order to be deliberately confusing. Perhaps this day could be seen as a gift, to use differently? This year 29 February falls on a Saturday, so we could be off on a day out with friends or family, read that book we always wanted to but didn't have time for, or perhaps work the extra day to raise



money for a charity? I would love to hear what you are doing with this day. In Marston that morning there is OxClean and all around the

community we will be getting out gloves and bin bags to leap into spring cleaning!

I'm going to leave you with the following prayer written especially for this extra gift day.

Heavenly God,

On this special day, added each leap year to accommodate our imperfect tabulation of time, please give me patience when your time line doesn't match mine.

On this day, as always, please bless my efforts to serve you, despite my human imperfections, for you can accomplish your work even through my fumbblings.

When inertia, caused by fear or doubt, holds me back from doing what you desire, please increase my trust in you when I need to take a leap of faith. Amen.

Parish Calendar for February 2020

St Nicholas, Marston

2 Candlemas

8am Holy Communion (BCP).....Revd Skye Denno
10am All Age ServiceGeoff & Gill Hale
6pm Healing Service with HC.....Joel Denno

5 Wednesday

9.30am Holy Communion (CW)...Revd Skye Denno

9 Third Sunday before Lent

8am Holy Communion (BCP).....Revd Andy Gosler
10am Parish Communion (CW).....Revd Skye Denno
6pm Evensong (BCP).....Revd Andy Gosler

12 Wednesday

9.30am Holy Communion (CW) Revd Skye Denno

16 Second Sunday before Lent

8am Holy Communion (BCP)...Revd Skye Denno
10am Parish Communion (CW).Revd Skye Denno
10am Messy Church in the HallSt Nic's team
6pm Eat, Love, Pray.....Neil Barker

19 Wednesday

9.30am Holy Communion (CW) Revd Skye Denno

23 Sunday next before Lent

8am Holy Communion (BCP).....Revd Andy Gosler
10am Parish Communion (CW).....Revd S Bullock
6pm Evensong (BCP).....Revd Skye Denno

26 Ash Wednesday

9.30am Holy Communion (CW)..Revd Skye Denno
with imposition of ashes
7pm Holy CommunionRevd Andy Gosler
with imposition of Ashes....& Revd Skye Denno

St Thomas of Canterbury, Elsfield

1 Saturday

10.30-12.30 Arts and Crafts in Elsfield (ACE)
in the Village Room

23 Sunday

10am MatinsRevd Skye Denno

Bible Readings for Parish Communion

9 Isa 58: 1-9a; 1 Cor 2: 1-12 (13-16); Matt 5: 13-20
16 Gen 1:1 - 2:3; Rom 8: 18-25; Matt 6: 25-34
23 Exo 24: 12-18; 2 Pet 1: 16-21; Matt 17: 1-9

Vicar

Revd Skye Denno202988

Churchwardens

Judith Piggott 764693; Eileen Palayiwa 725423
James Plunket 358170; Justine McCool 358578

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THIS IS THE DAY

Come and join us at our Dementia Friendly Service on Wed 12 Feb from 2.30 – 4pm at Marston URC, 352 Marston Road OX3 0JB. All are very welcome. This short Ecumenical service is particularly suitable for those living with dementia, memory problems or any kind of special needs and will be followed by tea and cakes, activities and fellowship. Contact Val Stolton on 246157 or 07712 495406 or valstolton@aol.com.

OVER 50s CLUB

On Mon 10 Feb we are having A Musical Afternoon with Adrian Broadway. On 24 Feb Martin Sirot-Smith will tell us about Life in Tudor Times.

WI MEETING

The next W.I. meeting will be on Tue 11 Feb in the Parish Hall at 7.30; our speaker will be Alistair Lack on The Oxford of Inspector Morse. Come and join us!

IF YOU CARE ABOUT THE PLANET

Please come to the lecture on Thurs 13 Feb at 7pm in Horton-cum-Studley Village Hall, when Professor Dave Goulson will talk with practical and inspiring guidance on how to make our gardens even more wildlife friendly; £5 cash entry on the door.

MESSY CHURCH COMING TO MARSTON

Messy Church is for people of all ages who like to worship informally and is particularly aimed at mixed ages together. So if you are a granny or a grandpa, or a mum or a dad or an auntie or uncle, come along with your small people and give it a try. If you don't have any children, come along anyway. There will be stories, singing, prayers, activities and breakfast. Messy Church this month is at 10am on Sun 16 Feb in the church hall and every third Sunday of the month after that. We look forward to welcoming you.

COFFEE POT

Our next meeting will be for coffee on Mon 17 Feb in the Parish Hall from 10.30 - 12pm: do come and join us! For lifts, please phone Eileen Palayiwa 725423 or Judith Piggott 764693. Next meetings will be on 16 Mar, 20 Apr (lunch) and 18 May.

ECUMENICAL QUIET DAY

The next EQD will be on Thur 20 Feb at Marston URC from 12 - 4pm. The day will be lead by David and Hilary Blair. All are welcome: please bring your own packed lunch.

MARSTON COMMUNITY GARDENING

This month we are looking for paving slabs and can still take reusable surplus stuff from your gardens: don't waste it! Contact Al on 07804 847285

BELLRINGERS' NOTES

The Christmas ringing rush began in earnest at St Nic's on 15 Dec with an 11-method quarter peal before morning service. We provided full bands for all the Christmas services, three of which were on Christmas Eve and one on Christmas Day *and* we helped with the ringing at Wolvercote on Christmas Eve. Our quarter peal rung for morning service on 22 Dec was conducted by Maarit and dedicated to her late father, Maano, born on this day in 1935. On 21 Dec we rang a quarter peal at West Hanney, which was a celebration of the life of Geoffrey Rowse. Several members of the Rowse family were on hand to listen to our ringing, the band comprising talents from Oxford, Witney and Woodstock branches, along with the tower captain. We were honoured to receive the invitation to form a band, and indebted to Michael Gurl and his wife Amanda for their immense generosity in providing us with a wonderful spread of refreshments after the quarter.

A NEW PATH TO THE MEMORIAL GARDEN

Access to our Memorial Garden at St Nicholas is currently via a steppingstones-style path with grass between each slab and a step at the start. This makes moving with a wheelchair, pushchair, buggy or walker virtually impossible, so people are unable to visit the memorials of their loved ones. We plan to replace the present path with one which is flatter, wider and non-slip. The anticipated cost is between £10,000-£12,000, due to the need for a small retaining wall *plus* adherence to Grade 1 listed building regulations. We must raise this sum via donations.

You can donate in one of the following 3 ways:

Bank transfer to: PCC of St Nicholas Marston, sort code 08-92-99, account 65861213, reference PATH.

Cheque payable to PCC of St Nicholas Marston (mark the back PATH).

Cash in a sealed envelope marked with your name and address and PATH and placed in the collection. If we can add gift aid to your donation but don't already have your certificate, please provide your name and address so we can send a form. Thank you.

SING EXCERPTS FROM HANDEL'S MESSIAH!

Directed by Benjamin Nicholas Director of Music Merton College, Oxford on Sat 18 Apr 2-5pm at St Nicholas church, Old Marston OX3 OPR. The afternoon will start with rehearsal 2-4pm and the performance from 4.30-5pm. Donation of £10 per person (tea included) in aid of the Memorial Garden Path For booking form and further details please contact administrator@stnicholasmarston.org.uk or tel 580354

PARISH COUNCIL OPEN MEETING NOTES

At the January PC meeting there were planning applications from 4 Rimmer Close and 8 Haynes Road, to which the Council had no objections, and 21 Haynes Road, to which the Council have concerns regarding the lack of adequate parking and loss of a family home. OCC has informed the PC that 2 Haynes Road has been approved and 9 Gordon Close has been refused.

A report from Tony Harris, of GallifordTry, on the building of the Swan School stated that everything is on schedule with the remaining tower crane dismantled from 7 Jan.

A brief talk from a representative of the British Youth Council was postponed due to illness.

The PC has appointed deputies to the various organisations on which it has representation.

The next open meeting will be at 7pm on Mon 30 Mar in Mortimer Hall. Topics for discussion will be local environment, traffic, air pollution and parking. The PC agreed that fliers will be delivered to all households within the parish.

The next OxClean litterpick event will take place on Sat 29 Feb, meeting outside Mortimer Hall at 10am. Sacks and litterpickers will be provided. Please do come and join us.

The Parish Council meets next on Mon 3 Feb 2020 in the Mortimer Hall at 7pm. All Parishioners are welcome to attend meetings.

The Clerk can be contacted by phone (203139) Mon to Wed 9am-1pm or a message can be left or email sent: clerk@oldmarston-pc.gov.uk. Information via www.oldmarston-pc.gov.uk, Facebook or Twitter.

Parish Clerk: Tim Cann – 01865 203139

Chairman: Duncan Hatfield - 07706 998224

www.oldmarston-pc.gov.uk

COURT PLACE FARM ALLOTMENTS

Cleared plots are available now for the 2020 growing season. Full plots £25 pa; half plots & concessions available. Enjoy growing your own veg, fruit and flowers in tranquil surroundings among friendly and helpful gardeners. Beginners welcome! Contact janewilsoncourtplacefarm@gmail.com

FROM THE REGISTERS

January 2020

Funerals

6 Jan Nick Dibsall

20 Jan Michael Gautrey

Parish Organisations

Allotments Associations

Court Place Farm, Boualts Lane. Secretary: Mr. T. Cann
 Sunday mornings 8.30 am – 11.00 am 01865 202104
 Mill Lane Chairman: Dr. M. Unkovskaya 07771 702548
 Treasurer Dana Vlad 07919 493580
 Secretary Christine Mitchell 07789 991051

Baby and Toddler Club

Gill Hale, 64 Arlington Drive 01865 248260

Bellringers:

Practice Friday 7.30pm Learners welcome
 Anthony Hughes, 2, Oxford Road 01865 244570

Choirs and Musicians at St Nicholas

Junior Choir, SATB Choir, Music Group
 Practices at various times.
 Neil Barker 01865 604617 or 07774 050056

Coffee Pot

Coffee morning, monthly, Monday
 David Blair 01865 246959 or 07917 298408
 Eileen Palayiwa, 27 Ouseley Close 01865 725423

Rainbow, Brownie, Guide and Ranger Units

Evenings throughout the week. Adult volunteers as well as girls welcomed!
 District Commissioner, Lesley Dentry, 07765 418067

Leisure:

OXS RAD Sports and Leisure Centre,
 Court Place Farm, Marsh Lane 01865 741336

Library (next to Mortimer Hall)

Tuesday 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm 5.30 pm to 7.00 pm
 Thursday 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm 5.30 pm to 7.00 pm
 Friday 10.00 am to 12.00 noon. 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm
 Saturday 9.30 am to 12.30 pm 01865 726823

Hedena Health Medical Centre 01865 227788

Marston Community Gardening

Alistair Morris 01865 724081
 Kate Robinson 01865 766620

Marston Saints Football Club

John Page. www.msfc.org.uk

Mortimer Hall (Village Hall)

Chris Crane, 2 Raymund Road 01865 727995

Over 50s Club

Alternate Mondays, 2.30 pm in Church Hall.
 Secretary, Jane Madden 01865 209086

Oxford City Council (Marston Representatives)

Mary Clarkson, 8 Dunstan Road, Oxford OX3 9BY 01865 751493
 Mick Haines, 3 Croft Road 01865 421600

Oxfordshire County Council (Marston Representative)

Mark Lygo 07765 665 726

Oxford Preservation Trust, Marston Area

Lucy Hughes, Cross Farm. 01865 244570

Parentline

Confidential helpline for parents 01865 726600

Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Tim Cann, 8 Nicholas Avenue 01865 203139
 (Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 9.00 am – 1.00 pm)
 Chairman: Duncan Hatfield 07706 998224

Pre-school at Mortimer Hall

open 9 sessions a week 07818 236348

Royal British Legion Club Hall:

Steward 01865 243991

Schools

Friends of St Nicholas School 01865 242838

Scouts — 43rd Oxford (St. Nicholas) Scout Group, Boualts Lane

Group Scout Leader, Tim Greaves tim.greaves@keble.oxon.org
 Beaver Scout Leader, Sue Springett 01865 251515
 Cub Scout Leader, Rachel Vallance vallance.whanau@gmail.com
 Scouts Leader, Linda Phillips 07804 925705

St. Nicholas Church Hall and Committee Room

Alison Edwards, Parish Office 01865 580354

Women's Institute

Second Tuesday in month, 7.30 pm in Church Hall.
 President, Sue Hawes 01865 247106
 Secretary, Mavis Curtis 01865 351325

Trade Directory

Airport transfers

MJM Airport transfers 07983 225474

Architectural services for Planning Permissions/ Building Regulations

Digby Architectural: 4 Broughton Close 07979 756918

Building/Builders Services

Lemarsh Building Services – plumbing and heating
 22 Marsh Lane 01865 761896 , 07484 274331
 Colin Simpson: High Class painting, decorating and coving etc:

10 Dent's Close OX3 ONP 01865 742842

Trevor Dines: No job too small - plumbing, complete bathrooms
 from fitting a door to building an extension. Free estimates.

8, Raymund Road 01865 452851, 07889 263140

Daniel Kelly: Painting and decorating services: 07917 607949

Cleaning Carpets & Upholstery

Grimebusters: Quality carpet, rug & upholstery cleaning at competitive
 rates. Free estimates 01865 726983

Complementary Medicine

Oxford Therapies: Pain relief, stress management & more
 www.oxford-therapies.com 07913 503257

Frances Valentine: Reflexologist – massage to reflex points in feet
 for relaxation, stress-relief and re-balance 07726 312719

Electricians

Brian Turner: Registered NICEIC domestic installer 01865 728729
 All work guaranteed. 33, Salford Road 07538 382683
 brian.r.turner@ntlworld.com

Craig Holloway Electrical Ltd: 07868 706392
 6 Clays Close, Marston OX3 ONX enquiries@craigholloway.co.uk

Elderly wellbeing

ElWell: Helping people to stay independent. Mobility, balance, home
 adaptations, managing memory loss, nutrition and social connections.

Home visits www.el-well.com 01865 238185

Foot Clinic

Oxfordshire Foot Clinic: We provide fast & efficient foot treatments,
 including nail cutting and corn/callus removal. We visit you at home.
 Appointments 07742 964282

Funeral Directors

C S Boswell Independent funeral services 01865 553737

D L Hancock Ltd (Independent family-run firm)

Personal 24 hour service 7 days a week 01865 767780

126 London Road, Headington OX3 9ED www.dlhancock.co.uk

Homewood Funerals (Family-owned and managed)

14 Cherwell Drive, Marston OX3 4LY 01865 570000

Hair and Beauty

Dee: Fully qualified, insured ladies mobile hairdresser 07736 668681
 www.deehairdresser.co.uk

Fiona's Hair Salon:

Salford Road, Old Marston OX3 ORX 01865 241632

Lynette: Fully qualified mobile hairdresser, friendly and professional
 offering excellent rates, in the comfort of your own home

..... 07977 403775, 01235 539245

Handyman, decorator, carpenter, general builder; Marston based and
 excellent references; call Joe 07784 884116

Monumental Mason

Reeves Memorials: New memorials, removal for burials, added
 inscriptions & renovations.

147A Magdalen Rd, Oxford. OX4 1RL 01865 251231

Pharmacy

Northway Pharmacy: 2 Cherwell Drive, OX3 OLY 01865 763706

Marston Pharmacy: 11 Old Marston Road 01865 243824

Plumbing, Heating & Gas

S. J. Moore: Installation and servicing for all gas appliances.

Gas Safe Reg. 146337.

76, Arlington Drive. 01865 724037, 07970 470176

Andrew Job Plumbing & Heating Ltd:

Gas Safe Registered Engineer 125206 .. 01865 761896, 07710 390980

Tree Surgery, Fruit Tree Pruning

R. Timms: 80 Oxford Road 01865 244608

Forwood: Tree Surgery. Hedge Cutting and Tree Pruning.

Mark Baldwin, 07765 935767, 01865 769917

Window Cleaning – MRF Window Cleaning Services

Mick Fry: 37, Green Hill Oxford OX4 7UD. Fully insured member of the
 Federation of Master Window Cleaners .. 01865 777889, 07887 515168

Yoga class on Wed evenings 7-8.30 in St Nic's Parish Hall

Jackie jackieyogafollow@gmail.com or 07747 070111

Copy deadline for March's issue is
 Thursday 12 February