

St Nicholas, Marston and St Thomas of Canterbury, Elsfeld
MARSTON & ELSFIELD MESSENGER
October 2021 ~ a church newsletter

Dear Friends

What does it mean to 'sit at peace with dissatisfaction?' This is a reoccurring question for me as we enter another new month and church life is still not completely returning to normal and offering exactly what we want. It's another month in which those who hope to throw away the masks and see the return of the chalice will be disappointed; it's another month in which others, desperate to return to the church building, will feel it is not yet safe to do so, or find that their health means that is no longer possible. They end up feeling that they are missing out or being left behind.

We are still very much a dispersed community, missing the 'normal' that made church feel safe and predictable. We are missing each other and the joy of a full church. There is a general feeling of dissatisfaction at the moment, not for everyone of course, but certainly for those who have spoken to me. There's a feeling of dissatisfaction with church services or work and current commitments, or the year going so fast and the worry about the future.

How do we all sit with this, without it weighing us down completely? Jesus says in John 14:27: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid'. I know that going to God when we feel dissatisfied isn't always easy. Our ego says, 'Once everything falls into place, I'll feel peace.' Our spirit says, 'Find your peace, and then everything will fall into place.' We often try and fix things ourselves: yes there are practical things we do - being in nature or talking to a good friend. But ultimately, I have found going to God is my only lasting comfort. So how are you connecting with God at the moment? How are you receiving Christ's peace?

Our current situation means it is very easy to lose the rhythm and discipline of coming to church (remember that I mean this for online, in person or Songs of Praise on the telly). If we're not overly happy with the way things are with the new patterns of worship we could very easily just decide to skip the Sunday/midweek service this week and before we know it, it's been a month and now it's harder to return because there are so many other things to do.

I say this not to make anyone feel guilty but to remind each of us, me included, that the church needs you and you need God and the church. Nothing will quite satisfy dissatisfaction like being at peace. So come to the One who gives us lasting peace. The Peace of Christ to you, Brothers and Sisters.

Come and celebrate
Harvest Festival

With the Installation of new Altar Candles in memory of John Joyce

At St Nicholas Church, Old Marston
10th of October at 10am

Be **thankful** to God and share with those in need.
Bring along packets and tins of food for the Food Bank



Skye x
Rev Skye Denno
202988 or joskso@yahoo.co.uk

Note that Skye's day off is a Tuesday but you can contact our Pastoral Officer Eileen on 725423.



Here at St Nicholas, we will be offering a mixture of online and in-person services.

All the details can be found on our website - stnicholasmarston.org.uk

Or call Alison at the parish office on 01865 580354.

Wednesday 9:30am Holy Communion in-person services at St Nicholas Church
Wednesday 9pm Compline LIVE on St Nicholas Church Facebook page

Sunday 3rd October

9am Short Communion Service at St Nicholas Church. The service is **LIVE streamed straight onto YouTube**. - (St Nicholas Church, Marston Oxford).

10:30am **Green Church** - Bulb planting, led by Andy. Start with prayer at the Memorial Garden and end with tea and coffee in Marston Eco Hub (Vicarage)

Sunday 10th October - HARVEST FESTIVAL

8am BCP Communion Service, in-person Service at St Nicholas Church

ALL AGE Holy Communion 10am in-person Service at St Nicholas Church.
With the installation of new altar candles in memory of John Joyce
LIVE streamed straight onto YouTube

Sunday 17th October - Oxford Half Marathon

8am BCP Communion Service, in-person Service at St Nicholas Church.
The service is **LIVE streamed straight onto YouTube**.

6pm **Benefice Confirmation Service** at St Nicholas Church.
Refreshments to follow in hall. **LIVE streamed straight onto YouTube**.

Sunday 24th October

8am BCP Communion Service, in-person Service at St Nicholas Church.

10am Celtic Holy Communion in-person Service at St Nicholas Church with the Jr and adult choir. The service is **LIVE streamed straight onto YouTube**.

10am Matins in-person Service at St Thomas Church - (LIVE on Facebook).

Sunday 31st October

8am BCP in-person Service at St Nicholas Church

10am Holy Communion in-person Service at St Nicholas Church. **LIVE streamed straight onto YouTube**

6pm **All Souls Memorial Service** at St Nicholas Church.

Choral Evensong

With the Combined Choirs of Holy Trinity and St Nicholas

Holy Trinity, Headington Quarry



*All welcome to join us for
these contemplative
renewing services with
well-loved words and
worshipful music*

Time: 6pm

Sunday 3rd October 2021

(at Headington Quarry)

Preacher: Rev Skye Denno

Sunday 6th March 2022

(at Old Marston)

Preacher: Rev Laura Biron-Scott

St Nicholas, Old Marston



For more information email:

music@hthq.uk

musicdirector@stnicholasmarston.org.uk



PULSE

**Restarts on
Oct 9th!**

**A welcoming Youth Group for 11+
If you want to know more contact
Skye: joskso@yahoo.co.uk**

Love to sing?



Junior & Youth Choir

Every Friday

At 6pm

St Nicholas Church

All young people welcome

Junior Choir from 7 to 11

Youth Choir from 11 to 18

For more information

please contact

Neil Barker:

musicdirector@stnicholasmarston.org.uk



St. Nicholas
Marston



Autumn Community FUN MORNING FOR ALL

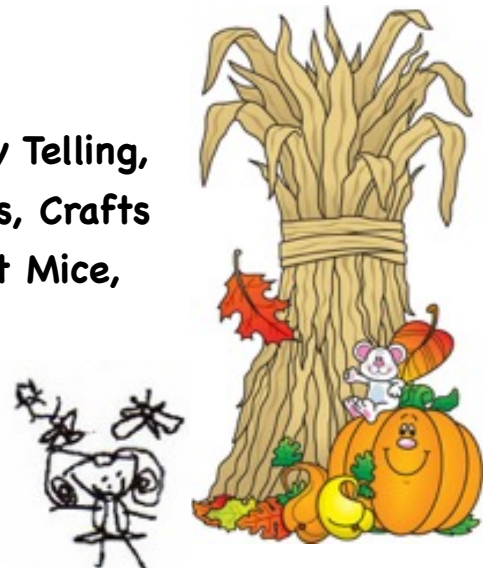
At Church Hall & Eco Hub (OX3 0PR)

Sat 23rd Oct

10-1pm

Bread Making, Pumpkin Carving, Story Telling,
Face Painting, Fire Pit & Marshmallows, Crafts
& Activities, Harvest Mice,
Coffee & Cake,
& Raffle

FREE



HOLY GROUND

Gatherings to mark the CELTIC YEAR

**Prayers and Reflections are from David Cole's book
'The Celtic Year'**



Always starting at 6:30pm
2nd of November 2021 - Winter Season
21st of December 2021 - Winter Solstice
1st of February 2022 - Spring Season
21st of March 2022 - Spring Equinox
1st of May 2022 - Summer Season
21st of June 2022 - Summer Solstice
1st of August 2022 - Autumn Season
21st of September 2022 - Autumn Equinox

Meet around a fire pit outside Marston Eco Hub OX3 0PR
Bring something to share, a chair and a blanket if it's cold.

ALL ARE WELCOME

**NEW
OPENING HOURS
HERE AT
THE GIVING GARAGE
Eco Hub - OX3 0PR**

Pick up or drop off FREE plant pots and other
items, and BORROW garden equipment

**EVERY WEDNESDAY
4-6PM &
1st Sunday of the month
12-2pm**

Further details - Skye - Tel: 01865 202988
& administrator@stnicholasmarston.org.uk



ALL SOULS

A single lit candle is centered in the lower half of the black rectangular area. The flame is bright yellow and blue, and the candle itself is a warm orange color. The background is solid black.

**COME AND
LIGHT A
CANDLE
FOR YOUR
LOVED
ONE**

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday 31st Oct 6pm

**During the service names are read aloud, if you would like one to be added please phone Alison on 580354 or email:
administrator@stnicholasmarston.org.uk**

Coffee Pot

We shall meet again for a simple Coffee Pot on Mon 18 October from 10.30-12 noon. For further details please contact Eileen Palayiwa via 725423 or eileen.palayywa@yahoo.com.

Divya Shanthi Christmas Bazaar

This is early notice to let you know that instead of our usual indoor event this year, we shall be having a Christmas Market on Sat 4 Dec 3-5pm at the Marston Eco-Hub in front of the Vicarage. There will be stalls selling food and gifts, mulled wine & spicy apple juice, roasted chestnuts, carol singing and much more! All the money raised will go to Divya Shanthi in Bangalore, Southern India, which works with poor and vulnerable people

Living Advent Calendar 2021

We have decided to take a break this year, after 2 Decembers of inventive work by all our contributors. Look out for lots of fresh ideas in December 2022!

And finally...

What to make?

Sticky Upside Down Plum Cake

Topping

50g soft brown sugar

50g butter or substitute

1tsp mixed spice

1tsp ground cinnamon

1 dsp golden syrup

5 – 6 plums, washed and stoned

Cake

100g soft margarine/ butter

100g soft brown sugar

2 eggs at room temperature

1tsp vanilla extract

110g self raising flour

1tsp baking powder

Method

Line the base of an 18-20 cm loose-bottomed cake tin with baking parchment and grease sides. Place on a baking tray. Pre-heat oven to 180C/ 160C fan/gas 4.

Beat together the first 5 topping ingredients and spread over base of tin. Arrange the cut side down in a single layer over the mixture.

Beat together the fat, sugar

and vanilla until light and creamy. Beat in eggs one at a time with a spoonful of flour. Mix the baking powder with the rest of the flour and fold into batter mix. Spoon over the plums. Bake for 30 mins then turn down heat to 170C/150C fan/ gas 3 and bake for another 20 mins. Remove from oven and cool in the tin for 15mins. Place a large plate over the top and flip the cake onto it. Serve warm with custard.

What to quote?

The Daddy-Long-Legs by Harry Eltringham

The Daddy-long-legs gets up late
And spends the night in jollity
He shows a tendency to terp-
sichorean frivolity.

Though if you look upon his face
His air is one of gravity
Still, truth to tell, he's guilty of
Occasional depravity.

But since his early life is spent
In studying geology
In view of these his strata days
We'll grant him some apology.

To Daddy-long-legs you'll extend
Both latitude and charity
And with indulgence pardon his
Paterfamiliarity.



Nature notes: what to see during October?

Hedgerows are in their prime this month. You may see drapes of brightly-coloured strings of red berries, the poisonous fruit of the black bryony plant; or even a robin's pincushion: a brilliant red, round, mossy growth, found on rosehips, caused by the larvae of a tiny gall wasp. On misty mornings, look out for dewy spiders' webs. Listen for the hooting calls of tawny owls on clear nights. They are early breeders and will be establishing their territories. If you have a garden, don't forget to leave seed heads from flowering plants – the goldfinches will enjoy the seeds and over-wintering insects will benefit too.

Old Marston Parish Council

Please be aware that you can find the Parish Clerk's minutes of each month's meeting via www.oldmarston-pc.gov.uk, Facebook or Twitter.

