

St Nicholas, Marston and St Thomas of Canterbury, Elsfield
MARSTON & ELSFIELD MESSENGER
January 2022 ~ a church newsletter

Dear Friends,

A New Year begins and with it fresh new possibilities!

I know we were all thinking, all hoping 2022 would be different and instead here we are again.. faced with another uncertain January with possible restrictions to work, life and play. As I write this I am unclear what this will look like but I realise that, as you read this, we may have a clearer idea of what those will be and what they feel like as they impact our everyday life.

How on earth can we possibly think about this New Year as an opportunity for new possibilities?



All around us the earth is slowly awakening out of its winter slumber; we won't be able to see the full extent of this on the surface yet, but underneath the ground roots are deepening, buds on trees are stretching into life and wildlife is uncurling from sleepy rest. January is a month that may seem bleak and blue but in fact hides a world of colour and new life.

For us as we begin to think ahead to this New Year we can also dig deep and look inside. The last year



may not have given you much space to think about

your faith. What we really don't want is for Jesus to be put away with the Nativity sets and Christmas decorations. Instead, I want to invite you to leave the Nativity set out this month - perhaps follow the tradition of leaving it out until Candlemas on 2 February. If you don't own a set, print one out and everyday as you go for a walk, or sit in a comfortable chair, hold onto the figure of Jesus. Jesus' story doesn't stop at his birth; it has always been a story of birth and death, and death and New Life!

What does this mean for you today? Where in your life now do you want God to bring you a sense of New Life? New Purpose? New Hope?

God sits with us in the darkness and breathes new life into our dry old bones. Even if we can't see it, he sees the potential and new possibilities inside our hearts and souls.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR to everyone!

Love, Skye

Sometimes it can be helpful to talk to someone about your faith and for them to ask the question where is God right now and to have space to explore this together.

I want to offer an hour of my time to you, this can be done via Zoom, phone call, or in person if that is allowed with current restrictions and is appropriate. Do get in touch with me after 7 January - vicar@stnicholasmarston.org.uk

You may need the month of January to think about this so do feel free to get in touch later on in the year! Blessings, Skye
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.

JANUARY 2022



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 at St Nicholas Church
Wednesday 9pm Compline LIVE online St Nicholas Church Facebook page

Sunday 2nd January - Epiphany

9am Short Communion Service at St Nicholas Church.

Sunday 9th January - Baptism of Christ

8am BCP Communion Service at St Nicholas Church

10am Holy Communion at St Nicholas Church.
The service is LIVE streamed onto YouTube.

Sunday 16th January

8am BCP Communion Service at St Nicholas Church.
The service is LIVE streamed onto YouTube.

12noon Baptism of *Freddie Gardener* at St Nicholas Church.

6pm [Churches Together Service at St Michael's, New Marston](#)

Sunday 23rd January

8am BCP Communion Service at St Nicholas Church

10am Celtic Holy Communion at St Nicholas Church with the Jr and adult choir.
The service is LIVE streamed onto YouTube.

10am BCP Matins Service at St Thomas Church - **(LIVE on Facebook).**

Sunday 30th January

8am BCP Communion Service at St Nicholas Church

10am Holy Communion at St Nicholas Church.
The service is LIVE streamed onto YouTube.

Please keep an eye on our Website or on posters in the porch for Covid updates, and church services announcements. Remember to wear a masks whilst in the building and to be mindful of your distance with other people. Thank you!

How about a New Year declutter?

Joel North has recently opened his Clearance and Second Hand Goods shop and will take your good quality items for others to enjoy. You can find him at 5 Salford Road, Marston. Opening times are:

Tuesday – Thursday: 9:30 – 2:30

Saturday: 9:30 – 12:30

The shop also sells books, puzzles, toys, CDs, DVDs and general bric-a-brac. Pop in to find something to lighten up a dark winter evening.

What to cook in January?

Epiphany Cake or Galette des Rois

This is a pie that is traditionally eaten in France on Twelfth Night - Epiphany. If you want, you can hide a bean or a small charm in the filling and whoever finds it in their slice is king for the day. If you do this, make sure you tell your eaters, or the unfortunate king may get a nasty surprise.

Ingredients

- 1 pack of ready rolled puff pastry
- 2 tbsp of apricot jam thinned with a little boiling water
- 100g softened butter
- 1 lightly beaten egg
- 100g icing sugar
- 100g ground almonds
- 1 tsp almond essence
- 2 tbsp brandy or rum - optional
- 1 tbsp icing sugar

Method

Heat oven to 200C/FanC180/ gas 6.
Line a baking tray with baking paper.
Unroll pastry and cut in half to form 2 squares.
{ if you want to make a traditional round shape, use 2 packs and cut out 2 x 25cm circles and use the leftovers for mince pies, jam tarts or cheese straws}
Place one square onto the baking tray and spread the apricot jam over it, leaving 2cm round the edge.
Beat together butter and icing sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the egg, saving a little for glazing the pie.. Stir in the ground almonds, almond essence and rum/brandy.
Spread the almond mixture evenly over the pastry leaving a 2cm margin round the edge. Push the bean or charm into the mixture. Brush the edges of the pastry with water and place the second piece of pastry over the top. Press the edges well to seal.
Mark the top of the pastry with a sharp knife to form a pattern like spokes of a wheel. Do not cut all the way through the pastry. Brush lightly with beaten egg. Add a little milk if you don't have enough.

Put in the oven and bake for 15mins. Then remove and quickly dust the top with icing sugar and return to the oven for another 10 -15 mins.

What to quote?

January

William Carlos Williams

Again I reply to the triple winds
running chromatic fifths of derision
outside my window:

Play louder.

You will not succeed. I am
bound more to my sentences
the more you batter at me
to follow you.

And the wind,
as before, fingers perfectly
its derisive music.

Nature notes: what to look out for in January?

Winter is a good time for nature-spotting with frosty



hedgerows, birds busily feeding during daylight hours and urban foxes active at night (listen out for the vixens' calls). Look out for early signs of spring including catkins, the male flowers of the hazel tree, and the emerging leaves of honeysuckle in hedgerows. It's the Big Garden Birdwatch at the end of the month, a great piece of citizens' science for everyone, whether you're a complete beginner or a birding expert. You simply count the birds you see in your garden, from your balcony or in your local park for one hour between 28 and 30 January 2022 and let the RSPB know what you saw: www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/ So put out bird food and water and wait to see what turns up!

Coffee Pot

The next Coffee Pot is on Mon 17 Jan from 10.30 to 12.00 noon in the Parish Hall. Please contact Eileen via 725423 or eileen.palayiwa@yahoo.com should covid developments make this meeting uncertain.

We wish all WI members a peaceful and healthy 2022. Members will be informed of the date of their next meeting. Happy New Year!



Starting in
2022
OLD
MARSTON
LUNCH
CLUB

Last Friday of the month in the Church Hall,

Starting 28th January

Time 12.30

25 places. Please book through Alison at the
parish office on 01865 580354

Price £3.00

Come with ideas for the name, games, music and ready to make new friends.

Looking forward to seeing you

Jackie & the Team

Support Group for parents starting in January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Recognising how difficult the last two years have been and knowing that the future is still unpredictable, I would like to invite you to join a small support group for approximately 8 to 10 parents. We will meet weekly for an hour and a half in term times, with the first part for coffee and cake! The date and time can be arranged with you once I know who wants join, to make the best fit for the majority. The venue will either be at the Church Hall on Elsfield Road or at St Nicholas School if a room is available.



If restrictions are in place that makes meeting in person difficult we can meet online via zoom.

Would you like to join - it is open to all parents and carers and it's a space for you to share and listen to one another.

If so, contact me, Skye on joskso@yahoo.co.uk to find out more or to book one of the places. Please note, there is no cost to joining.

Blessing Boxes



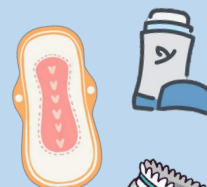
St. Nicholas
Marston

In partnership with St
Nicholas' Primary School



We need shoe boxes and gift bags which we will fill with toiletry items such as:

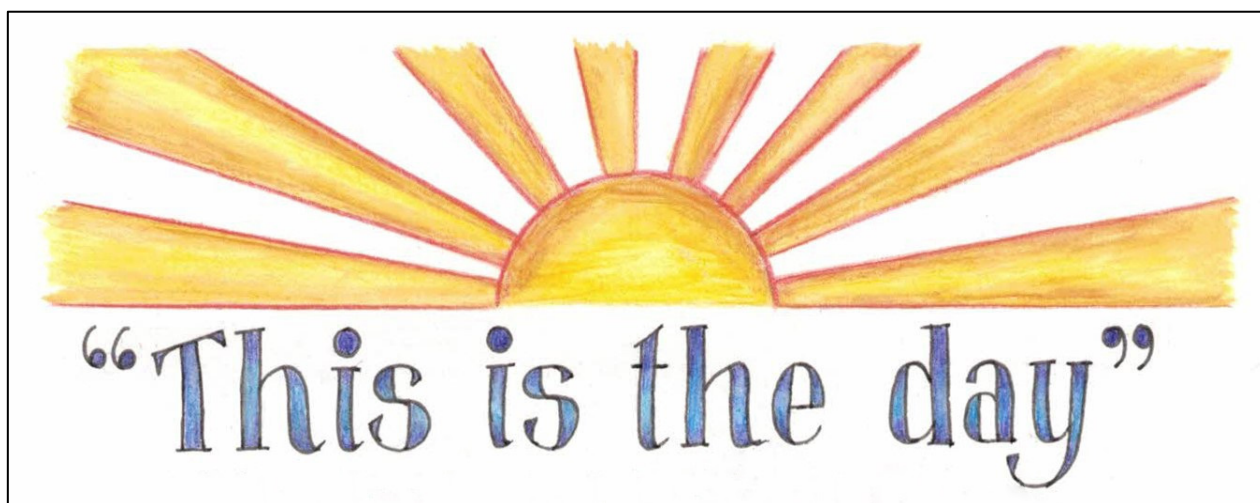
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Deodorants
- Shampoos
- Shower gel
- Bubble bath
- Pull up nappies
- Sanitary towels
- Washing detergent



These boxes and bags will then be distributed to local families

Please drop off donations at the font in St Nicholas church (OX3 0PR)





Come and join us at our Dementia Inclusive Service on

Wednesday

12 January 2022

2.30 - 4pm

at

Marston United Reformed Church

352 Marston Road OX3 0JB

All Very Welcome

This short Ecumenical service is for all those who are feeling lonely, have physical or psychological difficulties or would just enjoy companionship at a short service, followed by refreshments and activities. Family members, friends and carers will be equally welcome.

All facilities in the building are disabled friendly

For further information or offers of help please contact:

Val Stolton 01865 246157 or 07712 495406

valstolton@aol.com

Val says that if there has been any change in regulations by 12 January, do be in touch with her (see above) to verify arrangements.



**OLD MARSTON
PARISH COUNCIL**



**Monday 24th January 2022
7pm at Mortimer Hall**

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING,

LIMITED CAPACITY

FREE,

but Ticketed event!

Book via Eventbrite....

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/old-marston-parish-council-open-meeting-for-climate-emergency-tickets-228528624267>

To discuss and decide, how and what, we, as a local community, can do to tackle the **Climate Emergency?**
At least 1 expert guest speaker to offer ideas/suggestions

The Parish Council are looking for people who would like to be more actively involved.
Either by lending their expertise or being prepared to lead on certain projects/tasks!?

If sufficient interest/concern, this event will be followed by an Open Meeting, late March/early April.

PULSE YOUTH GROUP For 11+ All Welcome

Restarts on Sat 8th Jan 2022



**Every 2nd and 4th Saturday 7-9pm
at St Nicks Hall - OX3 0PR**

**food - drinks - games - table tennis -
pool room - table football - Bible chat**