

St Nicholas, Marston and St Thomas of Canterbury, Elsfeld

MARSTON TIMES

December 2021 stnicholasmarston.org.uk Donations welcome

Christmas is a time of communication. It's a time when we seek to make contact with those people who are special to us; family and friends with whom we may have lost touch during the course of a busy year.

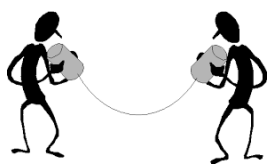
I remember my parents sitting down together at the beginning of December to write their Christmas cards. It was a long and protracted operation, involving the production-line style signing, addressing, stamping and sealing of envelopes. They sent Christmas cards to people from their past whose



faces I didn't know, but whose names I still associate now with that ritual from the start of Advent.

At Christmas time, we reach out to touch the lives of people we cannot see throughout the rest of the year. We reach out because we want to communicate. The modes of communication we use are different nowadays, of course. Skye and I still send some Christmas cards, but our lists are not as extensive as our parents'. We send emails, text messages and greetings via social media and we receive them back in kind. Christmas communication goes on, albeit in the language of the day.

We all know language is vital to communication. It is the vehicle into which we distil our thoughts and our feelings and send them on to other people. It is the means by which we attempt to express the things on our minds and the terms by which we try to understand the same on the minds of our loved ones. If Christmas is a time of communication, it is also a time of language. Via language, we both reach out and receive.



The Christmas story is a story about communicating and about the language of God. It's about God sending a card (or a text message, or an email, or a message on social media) to friends and family; it's about God reaching out and making contact; it's about the distilled thoughts and feelings of the divine being sent to all of us.



The story of the birth of Jesus, with the stable and the inn, the shepherds and the wise men, the donkey and the angels, is taken from two of the four gospels: Matthew and Luke. The other two - Mark and John - don't mention it. What John says, in place of the Nativity story, is this:

And the word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.
John 1:14

The 'word became flesh': it is significant that Jesus is described in John's gospel as 'the word', because words are what make up language and language is what enables us to communicate. God used the word to communicate with us at Christmas time. Jesus is the language of God and we are the friends and family of God to whom Jesus was sent.

Christmas is a time of communication. At the start of December, we think about who it is we want to contact; we write cards and greetings and we send them off in the post, or we click 'send' and wing them virtually on their way. Later in the month, though, we receive cards, gifts and messages from others and we appreciate the efforts they have made to remember us. This year, when we think about the communications we have received, let's think too about the way in which God communicated, and still communicates, with us at this time of year.

Blessings, Joel Denno

Sunday 5th December Advent 2

9am Short Communion Service at St Nicholas Church with Collection of Gifts for Salvation Army. The service is LIVE streamed straight onto YouTube. - (St Nicholas Church, Marston Oxford).

10:30am **Green Church - Winter Walk.** Start with prayer at the Memorial Garden and end with tea and coffee in Marston Eco Hub.

Saturday 11th December

4:30pm **Carols round the Tree.** Outside event at St Nicholas Church.

Sunday 12th December Advent 3

8am BCP Communion at St Nicholas Church

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

6pm **NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS.** Followed by mince pies and mulled wine. The service is LIVE streamed.

Sunday 19th December Advent 4

8am BCP Communion at St Nicholas Church

4pm **Nativity Christingle**- For all the family!

Tuesday 21st December

6:30pm **Winter Solstice**
Gathering round the fire pit at the Eco Hub (Vicarage)

Wednesday 22nd December

7pm **Carols by Candlelight** at Elsfield
Followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

Friday 24th Christmas Eve

7pm **Contemporary Family Carol Service**
(Booking essential - please look at the Website)

11:30pm MIDNIGHT MASS

SATURDAY 25th CHRISTMAS DAY

10am Family Communion at St Nicholas Church.
The service is LIVE streamed

12noon Family Communion at St Thomas, Elsfield

Sunday 26th December

8am BCP Communion at St Nicholas Church

Marston & Elsfield Benefice DECEMBER 2021

Come and celebrate the birth of Jesus

We offer 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.

Midweek services (until the 22nd)

Wednesday 9:30am Holy Communion **in-person** services at St Nicholas Church

Wednesday 9pm Compline LIVE on St Nicholas Church Facebook page



Collecting for The Salvation Army – ALL unwrapped gifts welcomed especially presents for teens!



Collections will take place at St Nicholas Church on the 5th of December during our 9am service and at *Carols around the Tree* event on Saturday 11th with The Salvation Band accompanying our singing



What to quote in December?

Christmas at Four Winds Farm
by Maureen Haselhurst

When the tambourines tinkle of ice on the moor
and the winter moon white as a bone
my grandad and his father set out to bring
Christmas home.

A wild winter wizard had grizzled the gorse
and spangled the splinter sharp leaves,
when the light of their wind-swinging lantern
found a magical Christmas tree.

From the glittering town at the end of the dale
the carols grew sweeter and bolder
as my granddads smiling father
carried Christmas home on his shoulder.

What to see in December?

December brings many nature delights. Look out for
flocks of pied wagtails. They move into urban areas
in the winter for food, shelter and warmth. Without



their leaves, those
trees often hosting
mistletoe (poplar,
lime, apple and
hawthorn) reveal
great big green
baubles on which
the pearly white
mistletoe berries
are found. Garden
birds need a boost
in winter. Putting
out protein-rich
food such as
sunflower hearts
and peanuts will
help maintain their

fat reserves. They also need to bathe to keep their
feathers in good condition so don't forget to put
clean water out for them daily.



What to cook....ahead of time for those who do not
like Christmas pudding?

Chocolate pots



Serves 4

You will need 4
ovenproof 125g
containers such as
dariole moulds

Ingredients

125g butter (plus some extra for buttering moulds)
125g good quality chocolate
2 eggs plus 2 extra egg yolks
4 tbsp caster sugar
2 tsp flour

Method

Butter and flour the moulds twice and tap off
excess flour. Place chocolate and butter in a bowl
and melt over a simmering pan of water then
remove from heat and let it cool slightly. Whisk
together eggs, yolks and sugar in a separate bowl.
Add the chocolate mixture and whisk. Add the flour,
mix and divide between the moulds. Cover with
cling film and refrigerate for up to 24 hours if not
needed straight away. Bring back to room
temperature when you want to bake them
Heat oven to 230C /220Fan/Gas 8
Put pots on a baking sheet and bake for 6 - 7 mins.
Invert each one on a plate, let stand for about 10
secs, then release from moulds. Or eat them in the
container. The outside should be firm and the
centre will be molten.

And just an extract to finish...

Then he shook! What he saw was a shocking
surprise!

Every Who down in Whoville, the tall and the small,
Was singing! Without any presents at all!

He HADN'T stopped Christmas from coming! IT
CAME!

Somehow or other, it came just the same!

And the Grinch, with his grinch-feet ice-cold in the
snow,

Stood puzzling and puzzling: "How could it be so?"

"It came with out ribbons! It came without tags!"

"It came without packages, boxes or bags!"

And he puzzled three hours, till his puzzler was sore.

Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't
before!

"Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come
from a store."

"Maybe Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit
more!"

11th December
Carols
around the Tree
starts at 4:30pm
for the switching on of lights

Our singing will be accompanied by *The Salvation Army Band*

ALL ARE WELCOME

Do come and take a stocking from the Tree. Followed by Mince Pies & Mulled Wine

A Candlelight Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

6pm Sunday 12th December

St. Nicholas Marston

StNicholasMarston.org.uk

Christingle

The Children's Society



Come and join the celebration - it's for everyone!

Nativity Christingle
Sunday 19th December
at 4pm



A short fun family service where we retell the first Nativity story together (so feel free to dress up as an angel or donkey or any other Nativity character) and **PICK UP YOUR FREE CHRISTINGLE ORANGE** as we sing and say prayers and remember the great work The Children's Society do.



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 Equinox
- 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

What can communities in Old Marston do about the climate & ecological crisis?

Oxford has declared a climate emergency – we all need to act urgently to avert disaster. Fortunately, there is so much we can do as individuals and in our communities to tackle the climate crisis and create a healthy, sustainable future for Oxford.



The Community Action Group network includes dozens of local groups and community projects focused on tackling environmental and social issues www.cagoxfordshire.org.uk

Good Food Oxford is a network for a better food system in Oxford, working together for healthy, fair, sustainable and, tasty food. goodfoodoxford.org



Visit the Low Carbon Hub for more information and advice about setting up a community energy project in your area. lowcarbonoxford.org

Find out how to make Oxford healthier and greener with the Coalition for Healthy Streets and Active Travel. cohsat.org.uk



Learn more about reducing, reusing, and recycling from Oxford Recycles. oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/waste-and-recycling/oxfordshire-recycles

Learn more and share your knowledge with everyone

Tell your friends and neighbours what we can all do together to build a better world

tackling the climate & ecological crisis

- Plant trees where appropriate
- Let some lawn go wild
- Seed green spaces with wildflowers to encourage pollinators
- Conserve rainwater, compost green garden waste.



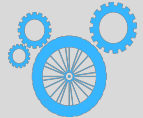
- Grow fruit and veg at home, in allotments or with a local community garden
- Shop locally when possible.
- Cook regularly with friends and neighbours to reduce waste and save energy
- Eat less meat
- Cook in bulk, preserve and, share surplus



- Insulate walls and roofs, switch to renewable energy providers and heat our homes in a smarter way
- Share the cost of solar panels and heat pumps with neighbours
- Use energy efficient appliances & LED lights.



- Walk, cycle or take public transport as much as possible
- Fly less
- Organise carpool sharing and switch to electric vehicles



- Share with your friends and neighbours, buy less, repair broken items and shop second hand
- Recycle and compost as much as you can
- Avoid single use plastic items



OLD MARSTON PARISH COUNCIL

www.oldmarston-pc.gov.uk



MULLED WINE | ROAST CHESTNUTS | GIFTS | CAKES | CRAFTS | TEA



Christmas Market

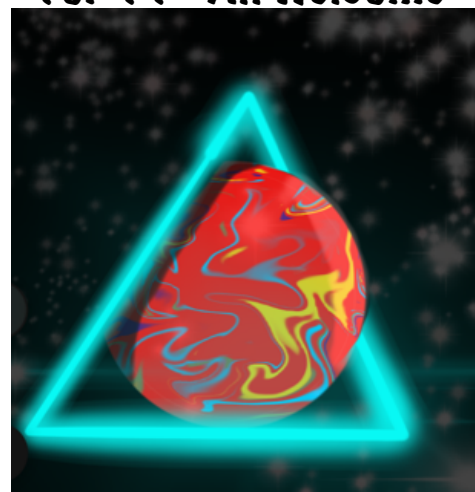
TOMBOLA | CAROLS | REFILL STATION | GINGERBREAD | COFFEE | MUSIC

SATURDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2021
3-5PM

At the Marston Eco Hub, Marston Vicarage, Elsfeld Road, Marston
In aid of Divya Shanthy, Bangalore, India



PULSE YOUTH GROUP For 11+ All Welcome



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

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

St Thomas of Canterbury Church, Elsfield

I am pleased to be able to report that the restoration and repair to the external stonework on the church at Elsfield is now completed. This work has been on the 'to do' list for many decades. Asbestos guttering and downpipes have been removed and new guttering has been installed to prevent rainwater penetrating the stonework and the drainage channel on the south side has been restored. During the first phase of this work the bells and bell tower were also maintained and repaired kindly paid for by the Old Marston St. Nicholas Society of Bellringers.

It is more than twenty years since the parish committed to reordering, restoring and repairing the church and many hundreds of thousands of pounds have been raised. This is quite an achievement for such a small parish and it is hoped that the church, which has such a special atmosphere of centuries long worship will continue for many years to come. The creation of the Village Room has given the community a centre to hold meetings and events for which the Village Room Committee is responsible.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have been so supportive over these twenty or so years. The Rev. Tony Price who gave the project his support, all the grant giving bodies, those who gave personal donations, our friends from Marston and everyone who supported all the fundraising activities. Also the architects, the conservators, the craftsmen and the volunteers who have worked on the project over the years.

It has been a privilege to work with a dedicated and loyal group of people who have given 100% throughout the project and to whom the parish is indebted. A big thank you to every one of you.

Carolyn M. Brown

Carols by Candlelight at Elsfield church

...will begin at 7pm on Wed 22 December with mince pies and mulled wine to follow: all are very welcome.



Starting in
2022
OLD
MARSTON
LUNCH
CLUB

Last Friday of the month,
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

Old Marston Library update

Our library remains open as a click and collect portal for books reserved online. Entry is still not permitted because of the Covid situation. Please be aware that the opening hours are Tuesday 2-5pm, Thursday 2-5pm and Friday 10-12. Books can only be returned when the library is open as the letter box has been sealed. Return books should be placed in the box outside the door. We have been reassured that there are no plans to close the library and that the pre Covid opening hours will be reintroduced as soon as it is deemed safe for customers and volunteers. Please try to keep using the library even in this restricted form to emphasise its worth to the Old Marston local community.

Janet Duhan - Library Volunteer coordinator

St Nicholas Baby and Toddler Group

.... meets on Wednesday mornings in term time, from 9.30 - 11.30. We have lots of fun with toys, play dough, slide and ride-ons, craft activities and we have a singing time together to finish the morning. We also enjoy chatting over our tea, coffee and biscuits! Toddler group is supported by the church and is free for anyone who would like to come.

This is the day

Come and join us at our dementia friendly service on Wed 8 Dec 2.30-4 at Marston URC, 352 Marston Road, OX3 0JB. This is particularly suitable for those living with memory problems and other physical or psychological needs. Carers and friends very welcome; Refreshments and activities to follow. Ring /email Val or Pauline for further info/offers of help: 246157 or valstolton@aol.com.

Marston WI

The W.I. will be having a meeting in the Parish Hall, Old Marston, on Tuesday, 14 December at 7.30pm. This will be a Bring and Share! Please come and join us for an enjoyable evening with old and new friends.



Parish Council Meeting Notes

The last few months have been quite eventful for the Parish, particularly with the proposed building developments. The main planning concerns are Hill View Farm and Almond Farm, both in Mill Lane, which have recently been approved by Oxford City Council planning department; Marston Paddock in Butts Lane will be submitted soon. The houses in Cumberlege Close are now complete and will soon be receiving new tenants.

The Parish Council has made several attempts to arrange meetings with the City and County councils to discuss its concerns about these developments. The County Council is still adamant that no access or egress will be made with the ring road. They are also committed to the upgrading of Back Lane for use by cyclists, horse riders and pedestrians.

The Parish Council has always said that it does not object to new houses and there is a considerable need for affordable housing. However, having the infrastructure in place, both within the site and the surrounding area, is just as important. Issues of increased traffic, parking, and the lack of public transport all need to be addressed, rather than relying on hope and blind determination.

County Highways are planning to extend the Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ) early next year to include the whole parish.

The seat in Boults Lane Recreation Ground play area, commemorating past Parish Council Chairman Norman Jones, has been re-installed, and a new seat has been installed in the paddock at the rear of the cemetery.

The Parish Council is arranging a meeting on climate change for Mon 24 January. Further details confirming the format, time, and venue, will be announced nearer the time.

The Parish Council will be installing an outside table tennis table in Mortimer Hall Recreation Ground. This will give another option for exercise and safe socialising for those seeking outdoor activities.

The next PC meeting is on Mon 10 January 2021 in the Mortimer Hall at 7pm. All parishioners are welcome to attend meetings; however, please be aware of your own safety in the light of continued Covid concerns.

The Clerk can be contacted by phone (203 139) Monday to Wednesday from 9am until 1pm.

Otherwise a message can be left or emailed via: clerk@oldmarston-pc.gov.uk. For information, agendas etc. go to www.oldmarston-pc.gov.uk, Facebook or Twitter.

Parish Organisations

Allotments Associations

Court Place Farm, Boults Lane. Chair: Jane Wilson
membership@cpf-allotments.org.uk
Sunday mornings 8.30 am – 11.00 am 07530 068977
Mill Lane Chairman: Dr. M. Unkovskaya 07771 702548
Treasurer Dana Vlad07919 493580
Secretary Christine Mitchell 07789 991051

Baby and Toddler Club Weds 10-11.30 term time in Parish Hall
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 Barker01865 604617 or 07774 050056

Coffee Pot

Coffee morning, monthly, Monday
Eileen Palayiwa, 27 Ouseley Close01865 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:

OXSRAD Sports and Leisure Centre,
Court Place Farm, Marsh Lane..... 01865 741336

Library (next to Mortimer Hall) Currently Click & Collect ONLY

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

Hedena Health Medical Centre..... 01865 227788

Marston Community Gardening

Alistair Morris 01865 724081
Kate Robinson01865 766620

Marston Saints Football Club

John Page. www.msfc.org.uk

Mortimer Hall (Village Hall)

Chris Crane, 2 Raymund Road 01865 727995

Oxford City Council (Marston Representatives)

Mary Clarkson, 8 Dunstan Road, Oxford OX3 9BY 01865 751493
Mick Haines, 3 Croft Road01865 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 Hatfield07706 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, Boults Lane

Group Scout Leader, Tim Greaves..... tim.greaves@keble.oxon.org
Beaver Scout Leader, Sue Springett 01865 251515
Cub Scout Leader, Rachel Vallancevallance.whanau@gmail.com
Scouts Leader, Linda Phillips07804 925705

St. Nicholas Church Hall and Committee Room

Alison Gray, Parish Office 01865 580354

Women's Institute

Future meetings planned
President, Sue Hawes 01865 247106
Secretary, Mavis Curtis.....01865 351325

Trade Directory

Airport transfers

Colin Dobson (taxi to anywhere).....07429
MJM Airport transfers.....07983 225474

Architectural services for Planning Permissions/ Building Regulations

Digby Architectural: 4 Broughton Close07979 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 0NP 01865 742842

Trevor Dines: No job too small - plumbing, complete bathrooms

from fitting a door to building an extension. Free estimates.

8, Raymund Road01865 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

12 Arlington Dr, Marston OX3 0SH enquiries@craigholloway.co.uk

Elderly wellbeing

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

Home visitswww.el-well.com01865 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 4LY01865 570000

Hair and Beauty

Fiona's Hair Salon:

Salford Road, Old Marston OX3 0RX 01865 241632

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 1RL01865 251231

Pharmacy

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 Road01865 244608

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 7-8pm in St Nic's Parish Hall or online

Jackie.....jackieyogaflow@gmail.com or 07747 070111

