

MARSTON TIMES

December 2018

stnicholasmarston.org.uk

30p

Are you ready for Christmas?

It struck me as funny that many of us spend so much time *preparing* to be as ready as possible for a *perfect* Christmas but that first Christmas when Jesus was born was actually so far from being perfect and prepared! We have the unmarried, heavily pregnant teenager Mary carrying a baby which is not Joseph's, travelling miles from home to be counted for the Roman census. There is no Trivago or Booking.com, all the places to stay are full and as we know baby Jesus, the King of the World, is born, not in luxury, but in dirt and straw. The first Christmas was raw, not perfect. It was messy and incredibly difficult.

It maybe that circumstances this year mean that raw is closer to how you feel, that life is difficult. God meets you there. It may be that circumstances mean this is a particularly special Christmas filled with the joy of angels. God meets you there too.

God was incarnate in Jesus (That is, God came to us in bodily form in Jesus) to meet us, whatever our circumstances, however prepared or unprepared we are, however raw or joyous we feel. The Christmas message is one of love: God loves us and came to us, and comes to us still.



The Wicked Fairy At The Manger

My gift for the child:
No wife, kids, home;
No money sense. Unemployable.
Friends, yes. But the wrong sort –
The workshy, women, wimps,
Petty infringers of the law, persons
With notifiable diseases,
Poll tax collectors, tarts;
The bottom rung.
His end?
I think we'll make it
Public, prolonged, painful.
*Right, said the baby. That was roughly
What we had in mind.*

U.A. Fanthorpe



Christmas blessings of love to you all,

Revd Skye

Parish Calendar for December 2018

St Nicholas, Marston

2 First Sunday of Advent – St Nicholas' Feast Day

8am Holy Communion (BCP).....Revd Skye Denno
10am All Age Worship
6pm Healing Service with Holy Communion
Revd Skye Denno

5 Wednesday

9.30am Holy Communion (CW) Revd Skye Denno

9 Second Sunday of Advent

8am Holy Communion (BCP).....Revd Skye Denno
10am Parish Communion (CW) Revd Skye Denno
6pm Evensong (BCP).....Revd Skye Denno
followed by Pints of View in the Red Lion

12 Wednesday

9.30am Holy Communion (CW) Revd Skye Denno

15 Saturday

2-4pm Christmas Messy Church inc Christingle
4.30pm Lighting of the Christmas Tree and Carols

16 Third Sunday of Advent

8am Holy Communion (BCP).....Revd Skye Denno
10am Parish Communion (CW) Revd Skye Denno
6pm Nine Lessons & Carols.....Revd Skye Denno

19 Wednesday

9.30am Holy Communion (CW) Revd Skye Denno

22 Saturday

6.30pm Beer and Carols at the Red Lion

23 Fourth Sunday of Advent

8am Holy Communion (BCP) Revd Skye Denno
10am Parish Communion (CW) Revd Skye Denno
6pm A Christmas Contemplation – an Iona Service

24 Christmas Eve

5pm Carol Service for all ages....Revd Skye Denno
7pm Carol Service.....Revd Andy Gosler
11.30pm Midnight Communion Revd Skye Denno

25 Christmas Day

10am Family Communion

30 First Sunday of Christmas

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

Bible Readings for Parish Communion

9 Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6
16 Zep 3:14-20; Phil 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18
23 Mic 5:2-5a; Heb 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)
30 1 Sam 2:18-20,26; Col 3: 12-17; Luke 2: 41-52

St Thomas of Canterbury, Elsfield

19 Wednesday

6.30pm Carol Service (CW).....Joel Denno

25 Tuesday

12noon Holy Communion (CW).Revd Skye Denno

Vicar

Revd Skye Denno437852

Churchwardens

James Lawrie 276177; Eileen Palayiwa 725423
James Plunket 358170; Justine McCool 358578

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ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, ELSFIELD

Saturday 1 Dec 10am - 12 noon - Christmas Gift Fair
In Elsfield Village Room: they look forward to seeing you there!

Saturday 1 Dec 4 – 5pm – English Country Carols - A concert by the Shotover Carol Choir, followed by refreshments. All welcome to come, hear and sing. Free - donations to the church stonework repair fund.

Wednesday 19 Dec 6.30pm Elsfield Carol Service with the Elsfield singers, followed by refreshments.



MORTIMER HALL PRE-SCHOOL

..would like readers to know that it has day and half-day places available, both payable and funded, to start now. Email mortimerhallps@yahoo.co.uk or ring 07818 236348 for more information or go to its website www.mortimerhallpreschool.com.

BELLRINGERS' NOTES

We held our final outing of 2018 visiting three towers in the Newbury Branch. We began at Bucklebury (Kate Middleton's village) and moved on to Midgham. Although not far from Oxford, the towers were new rings for most of our band and it was good to complete the year with such an impressive turnout. The morning was rounded off with lunch in the cosy Six Bells pub in Beenham.

An Oxford City Branch Practice took place at Wolvercote and Marston ringers contributed significantly to the ringing, including Cambridge and Stedman. The unique Wolvercote dumbbell was also available and garnered plenty of usage.

Hugh joined a band that rang a quarter peal for the All Souls service at Kirtlington in memory of all those who had died in the past year and also to commemorate the Centenary of the WW1 Armistice, and all who gave their lives in the two World Wars. Good also to strengthen Marston's links with Kirtlington. Well done Steve and Ellie.

Do join us! Ring Anthony on 244570.

COFFEE POT

Coffee Pot meets at the Parish Hall on Mon 10 Dec 10.30-12pm with a special Christmas flavour. Come to an informal, friendly gathering where you will be most welcome! Contact Eileen (725423) or David (246959) if you need a lift or would like to know more.

WI MEETING

The next W.I. meeting will be held in the Parish Hall on 12 Dec at 7.30pm. It is Party Night and will be *Bring and Share*. Please come and join us for fun and games!

OVER 50s CLUB

On Wed 5 Dec there is a members' Christmas lunch at the Oxford Bowls Club. We meet at 12.30 for a 12.45 meal. We wish you a peaceful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

TONY GREENFIELD

..writes that due his health, he has resigned as Vice Chairman of OMPC (see opposite), having enjoyed more than four years as a PC. He would like to thank most warmly those who voted for and entrusted him to see his full term through, in last May's election. He hopes that there are younger residents who will step forward and become part of the happy team: there is still much to do!

OLD MARSTON LIBRARY

..flourishes with the help of local volunteers, but we need more please! Contact Janet Duhan via iduhan@btinternet.com for more information.

PARISH COUNCIL NOVEMBER MEETING NOTES

The Council considered planning applications for 21 Haynes Road, 36 Raymund Road, The Corner House 9 Church Lane and 76 Arlington Drive to which there were no objections.

We remember Alun Jones: a Parish Councillor for many years, chairman of the Council, a skilled map-maker and local historian. Paul Rimmer was vicar at St Nicholas Church for many years, so he had a hand in special times for many people in Old Marston.

The end of year accounts for Apr 17 to March 18 have been finalised by the external auditor with no matters of concern being reported.

Tony Greenfield and Angie Tiwari have decided to stand down from the Parish Council. Angie has been on the Council since May 1987 and Tony more recently but always had great enthusiasm and commitment. We wish them both well for the future.

The local Thames Valley Police reported that although there have been no recent burglaries there always a need to keep valuables out of sight and properties securely locked.

The Council has set the budget and precept for 2019/20. There is an increasing burden put on parish councils throughout the county since, due to central government's (and therefore county council's) cuts; either the City Council or Parish Council need to fund services and facilities or they stop.

The Parish Council made the decision to increase the precept for 2019/20 by 5%, which equates to an increase for a band D property of £2.19 per annum.

The Council Tax Reduction Scheme funding from central government stops in 2020. Old Marston had extra funding of £3,579.78; however, this will stop. This year the Parish Council paid £20,370 for the new footpath on Elsfield Road, which the County Council refused to fund despite acknowledging the need. Our Council is unique in the City with its two recreation grounds, cemetery and an allotment site which all need managing. The Parish Council works closely with the County and City Councils to bring optimum services and facilities.

The Parish Council will meet again on Monday 3 Dec at **7pm (earlier than usual)** in the Mortimer Hall. All parishioners are welcome to attend meetings.

Parish Clerk: Tim Cann – 01865 203139
Chairman: Duncan Hatfield - 07706 998224
www.oldmarston-pc.gov.uk



Parish Organisations

Allotments Associations

Court Place Farm, Boults 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, 01865 07765 418067

Leisure:

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

Library (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 50's 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
Vice Chairman: Tony Greenfield 07876 205200

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

Chair, Tracy McAteer 07714 653088 tracymcateer@hotmail.co.uk
Group Leaders, Rob & Lisa Pocock
07841 577567 lisapocock@hotmail.co.uk
Beaver Scouts Leader, Sue Springett 01865 251515
Cub Scouts Leader, Karen Holliday 01865 760559
Scouts Leader, Linda Phillips 07804 925705

St. Nicholas Church Hall and Committee Room

Alison Heard, 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

Building/Builders Services

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: All interior/exterior work
covered. Free quotations 01865 738958
73, Coniston Ave. Headington OX3 0AW 07725 819264

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

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 0NX enquiries@craigholloway.co.uk

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

D L Hancock Ltd Oxford's ONLY 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
S & R Childs NAFD, part of Dignity plc. A British Company
69 London Road, Headington, OX3 9AA 01865 427272

Hair and Beauty

Dee: Ladies mobile hairdresser 07736 668681
Fiona's Hair Salon:
Salford Road, Old Marston OX3 0RX 01865 241632
Lynette: Fully qualified mobile hairdresser, friendly and professional
offering excellent rates, in the comfort of your own home
..... 07977 403775, 01235 539245

Monumental Mason

Reeves Memorials: New memorials, removal for burials, added
inscriptions & renovations.
147A Magdalen Rd, Oxford. OX4 1RL 01865 251231

Locksmith & speciality car keys

Keyfit Security Products: 24h emergency call-out for vehicles & houses
13 Salford Rd, Old Marston OX3 0RX 01865 242898

Pharmacy

Northway Pharmacy: 2 Cherwell Drive, OX3 0LY 01865 763706
Marston Pharmacy: 11 Old Marston Road 01865 243824

Plumbing, Heating & Gas

A. Exell: Gas Safe installer,
34 Campion Way, Witney OX28 1ES 07779 298030
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
Foreword: Tree Surgery. Hedge Cutting and Tree Pruning.
Mark Baldwin, 07765 935767, 01865 769917

Window Cleaning and Gutter Maintenance

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

Copy deadline for January's issue is
Thursday 13 December