

MARSTON TIMES

February 2018

stnicholasmarston.org.uk

30p



On 14 February 269, according to legend, Valentine of Terni, a Christian priest sentenced to death for refusing to worship pagan gods, was marched out to his public execution in Rome. During the time he'd spent awaiting his punishment, Valentine had not been idle. The story goes that he had been ministering to inmates of the prison and the jailer's daughter, who was blind. Valentine, it is said, prayed for the young lady to be healed and his prayer was answered. Just before being taken out of his cell to face his death, Valentine penned a short note to the jailer's daughter, signing it, 'your Valentine.'

So was this the first Valentine's card delivered? It was not a declaration of the heart to a lover, but the last act of a man who knew he was about to die. One can imagine that a letter written in the circumstances faced by Valentine may have had a confessional element. This is, of course, conjecture, but a reasonable one.

It is fitting that a tradition that sends us to the card shop, the date of Valentine's martyrdom, is this year also Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent.

Like Valentine, on Ash Wednesday we begin thinking about an imminent death, the death of Jesus on Good Friday. We are about to enter the season of Lent, when we remember Jesus in the wilderness and identify with his suffering by making small sacrifices of our own. However, perhaps we could also think of Lent as being analogous to Valentine's long walk to execution. There must have been a great deal of soul-searching as the condemned man walked to his fate.

Returning to Valentine's card to the jailer's daughter, we imagine that it might include a confession, a penitent word or two amongst the goodbyes and doubtless an encouragement to continue in the Christian faith. Such a confession would be wholly in keeping with the tradition of Ash Wednesday, because at the start of Lent Christians say sorry to God. We mark our foreheads with ashes to demonstrate our penitence and we ask God to forgive for all the things that we have done wrong.

As we look back to Valentine of Terni this Ash Wednesday, perhaps we can use the first Valentine's Day card as an inspiration. Talk to God, write Him a note; say sorry; be prepared to make sacrifices and do all of this in the knowledge that Easter Day is coming, a day when we will celebrate the risen Christ.



Parish Calendar for February 2018

St Nicholas Marston

4 Second Sunday before Lent

8am Holy Communion (BCP) Revd Skye Denno
10am All Age service Revd Skye Denno
6pm Healing Service Revd Skye Denno
with Holy Communion & Joel Denno

7 Wednesday

9.30am Holy Communion (CW) Revd Skye Denno

11 Sunday next before Lent

8am Holy Communion (BCP) Revd Skye Denno
10am Parish Communion (CW) Revd Skye Denno
Preacher: Joshua Blunt
6pm Evensong Revd Skye Denno
Preacher: Ben Knighton

14 Ash Wednesday

9.30am Holy Communion (CW) Revd Skye Denno
Preacher: David Blair
7.30pm Holy Communion (CW) Revd Skye Denno
Preacher: Joel Denno

18 First Sunday of Lent

8am Holy Communion (BCP) Revd Skye Denno
10am Parish Communion (CW) Revd Skye Denno
6pm Eat, Pray, Love in the Church Hall

21 Wednesday

9.30am Holy Communion (CW) Revd Skye Denno

25 Second Sunday of Lent

8am Holy Communion (BCP) Revd Skye Denno
10am Parish Communion (CW)
Revd Stephanie Bullock
6pm Evensong Revd Skye Denno
Preacher: David Cranston

28 Wednesday

9.30am Holy Communion (CW) Revd Skye Denno

Bible Readings for Parish Communion

4 Prov 8: 1, 22-31; Col 1: 15-20; John 1: 1-14
11 2 Kings 2: 1-12; 2 Cor 4: 3-6; Mark 9: 2-9
18 Gen 9: 8-17; 1 Pet 3: 18-end; Mark 1: 9-15
25 Gen 17: 1-7, 15-16; Rom 4: 13-end; Mark 8: 31-end

St Thomas of Canterbury, Elsfield

21 Wednesday

8.30pm Compline Revd Skye Denno

25 Sunday

10am Matins Revd Skye Denno

28 Wednesday

8.30pm Compline Revd Skye Denno

Coffee Pot

Coffee Pot will be held on Monday 12 February in the Church Hall from 10.30 - 12 noon. A good way to begin the week: meeting others, sharing news and stories and welcoming those who have not been to Coffee Pot before. For any who require lifts, please phone Eileen Palayiwa on 725423 or David Blair on 246959 (or leave a message with a number to call back).

Contacts

Vicar

Revd Skye Denno, 1 Salford Road, OX3 0RX.
01865 437852; 07720 768684,
vicar@stnicholasmarston.org.uk

Churchwardens (St Nicholas)

James Lawrie: 01865 276177; jcfsl@btinternet.com
Eileen Palayiwa: 01865 725423,
eileen.palayiwa@yahoo.com

Churchwardens (St Thomas of Canterbury)

James Plunket: 01865 358170;
james@jplunket.force9.co.uk
Justine McCool: 01865 358578

Marston Times Editor

Jan Lawrie: marstontimes@gmail.com

Churches Together Ecumenical Quiet Days

The EQD on Thursday 15 February 2018 will be led by Rev Pauline Main. We meet at Marston URC, 352 Marston Road, OX3 0JB from 12 noon to 4pm (please bring your own lunch). All are welcome.

Copy deadline for March's issue is
Thurs 15 February

MARSTON TIMES feedback

What do you think of your Parish magazine?

1. Which parts do you find useful/interesting?
2. What else would you like to see included?
3. Do you find the layout easy to read?
4. Any other comments?

Please hand your response to your collector or put into the box at the back of the church or email to janlawrie@btinternet.com

Parish Administrator

St Nicholas church is seeking a person to help with printing, copying, answering the phone, banking the collection and similar jobs so that the vicar and others can be freed for pastoral work. This is a part-time position of 10 hours per week, mainly on Tuesdays. Salary £6,500 per annum. More details are available at www.indeed.co.uk where you can also apply.

Bellringers' notes

The Christmas season is long since over, but before our memories fade let us recall some highlights. Time: No Man's Land between Christmas and New Year. Scene: quiet, dimly lit St Nic's church as we greet our visitors Alison and Mike from Witney and Woodstock Branch. Together we ring a quarter peal of delightfully named seasonal methods: St Stephen's, St Wenceslas and St Nicholas. How they acquired these names is lost in the mists of time. After refreshments provided by Hugh we left for home. Our visitors' verdict? "We must come here more often!"

Sadly we were unable to raise a band to ring in the New Year at St. Nick's. Instead Hugh and Judy took part in celebrations kindly hosted by St. Mary's Iffley. An innovation this year was Westminster chimes as a prelude to striking midnight.

On Friday we went out to Wheatley to join the practice there, swelling their numbers to 17. To finish the Wheatley band attempted a plain course of Bob Doubles without any help. Our verdict? "An incredible practice!"

Do join us! You will receive a warm welcome. Ring Anthony on 244570.

The Over 50s Club

On 5 February John Paine will give a talk on *Tigers and Maharajahs*.

On 19 February Helen Wheeler's talk is called *Lamptabulous*.

Oxford City & County Bowls Club

We are just along Marston Ferry Rd from your village and would welcome anyone who would like to come along to our Taster Day on Saturday 3 February 10-4.

WI meeting in January

The following month on 13 February at 7.30 pm we will be entertained by Adrian Broadway, with Songs from the 60s. If you are not a member, come as a visitor and see what we are all about. Both these evenings promise to be both informative and entertaining. Do come along.

Old Marston Parish Council

At the January Parish Council meeting the Council elected Duncan Hatfield as new Chairman (to replace John Batey, standing down through poor health) and Tony Greenfield as Vice-Chairman.

Planning applications were considered from 50 Raymund Road, 10 Elsfield Road and 9 Rippington Drive, to which the Council had no objections. There were also two plans for 46 Mortimer Drive for which the Council asked the City Council for clarification. OCC has approved the applications for 147 Oxford Road and 17 Salford Road.

The Parish boundary currently runs along the old brook, now underground and no longer visible. It was agreed to seek permission from OCC to expand the parish boundary to include all properties in Cherwell Drive, Marsh Lane, Ashlong Road and the Oxford Road as far as Marston Road, including Ousely Close. This will be subject to consultation with residents but would make the boundaries clearer.

Grants were awarded to the 43rd Scout Group, St Nicholas Primary School Garden Club, Marston Times, St Nicholas Society of Bell Ringers, St Nicholas Church Junior Choir and Oxfordshire BLIND.

Don't forget OXCLEAN is on 3 March at 10am inside the Mortimer Hall.

The next elections for the parish council will take place on Thursday 3 May this year. If you would be interested in standing for the council then please contact the clerk.

Unfortunately there was an error in last month's article in that the precept will still go up by 3%; which will add £1.22 per year onto a Band D property. The County Council has agreed to meet the cost of preparing the surface for the repainting of the Marston Underpass and of sealing it afterwards.

The Parish Council will meet again on Monday 5 February at 7.30pm.

Heartfelt thanks

Fieke Hogg would like to thank all those who gave her cards, flowers and words of comfort when her dear husband Don died in November. Her greatest thanks goes to Skye, Joel and Neil, who created such a thoughtful and moving memorial service for Don, attended and appreciated by all her friends and family in England and the Netherlands.

From the Registers

Funeral Services

15 January - Jeanette Cadd

25 January - Connie Dowler

2 February 11am at Elsfield - Daniel Hays

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 Dr David Bullock 07902 805784
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 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: John Batey, 47 Horseman Close. 01865 765311
Vice Chairman: Duncan Hatfield. www.oldmarston-pc.gov.uk

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

Gill Hale, 64 Arlington Drive 01865 248260

Women's Institute

Second Tuesday in month, 7.30 pm in Church Hall.
President, Sue Hawes 01865 247106
Secretary, Mavis Curtis 01865 35132

Trade Directory

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 45285, 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 ONX 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.
S & R Childs NAFD, part of Dignity plc. A British Company
69 London Road, Headington, OX3 9AA 01865 427272

Hair and Beauty

Fiona's Hair Salon: new location -
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

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 ORX 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 Champion 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
Forwood: Tree Surgery. Hedge Cutting and Tree Pruning.
Mark Baldwin, 07765 935767, 01865 769917

To advertise your local service here contact the Treasurer c/o
The Vicarage, Elsfield Road, Marston OX3 0PR.
treasurer@stnicholasmarston.org.uk

For just £28 per year you can reach over 1500 Marston
residents every month. It is the most well-used trade
directory in Marston.