

MARSTON TIMES

January 2018

stnicholasmarston.org.uk

30p



A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!

What will you be looking for in 2018?

Some look for comfort or possibly a place to hide; some look for justice; others for a chance to make changes to themselves, to their appearance or how they feel inside; some look for a reason to celebrate: last year was hard but this new one will be different, will be better..

I wonder whether we know what we are looking for? Perhaps we think there is some superficial fix for our problems, but maybe some of us have the courage to dig down and to seek real transformation. Doing this means we have to be honest, vulnerable and open.

Real vulnerability is about confronting our deepest longings, acknowledging the emptiness or loneliness within, enquiring about what is of ultimate importance - it doesn't make for polite conversation over coffee. Honesty is too risky. Even being honest with ourselves is hard.

So we talk about what doesn't matter until something happens that does matter – a tragedy, a failure, the loss of a loved one, a challenge that

seems impossible. And then the question arises: What are you looking for?

Ultimately, this question lies at the core of our relationship with God. How we answer it determines how we live, how we navigate the tragedies and pain of life, and how we relate to God and our neighbour. Even if we never directly ask ourselves what we are looking for, our lives are always answering. We answer every minute of every day. Our choices reveal what it is we seek; the decisions we make do too, as do our priorities and the relationships we create. We answer the question: What are you looking for? by the things we do and the things we leave undone.

Yet each time we ask ourselves the question, we are given a chance to answer anew. A chance to be inward-looking, self-reflective, to choose the course for our life. There is no need for a wish-list or a wish-we-did-this-list or wish-we-looked-like-this-list..

Because, if we are honest, we settle for easy answers rather than living with hard questions. We seek approval from others, rather than finding our identity in God, in the Creator. Every time we do this we cut off the longing, the desire, and the emptiness that point the way home. These feelings are not about absence; they are about the presence of God in every human being. They are the divine presence calling us, seeking us, loving us, guiding us home. Instead of eliminating the longings and the restlessness, we should follow them. What are you looking for? is the question that takes us into the human heart. Come and see is the invitation that leads us home, into the heart of God.

There is only one thing to do with an invitation like Come and see. Get up and look.



Parish Calendar for January 2018

St Nicholas Marston

3 Wednesday

9.30 Holy Communion (CW) Revd Skye Denno

7 First Sunday of Epiphany

8am Holy Communion (BCP) Revd Skye Denno

10am All Age service Revd Skye Denno

6pm Healing Service Revd Skye Denno

Preacher: Joel Denno

10 Wednesday

9.30am Holy Communion (CW) Revd Skye Denno

14 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

8am Holy Communion (BCP) Revd Skye Denno

10am Parish Communion (CW) Revd Skye Denno

Preacher: Susan Ison-Stierer

6pm New Year Praise at URC, Marston Road

17 Wednesday

9.30am Holy Communion (CW) Revd Skye Denno

21 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

8am Holy Communion (BCP) Revd Skye Denno

10am Parish Communion (CW) Revd Skye Denno

Preacher: David Cranston

6pm EAT, PRAY, LOVE in the Church Hall

24 Wednesday

9.30am Holy Communion (CW) Revd Skye Denno

28 4th Sunday of Epiphany

8am Holy Communion (BCP) Revd Skye Denno

10am Parish Communion (CW)

Revd Stephanie Bullock

6pm Evensong Revd Skye Denno

31 Wednesday

9.30am Holy Communion (CW) Revd Skye Denno

Bible Readings for Parish Communion

7 Gen 1: 1-5; Acts 19: 1-7; Mark 1: 4-11

14 1 Sam 3: 1-10; Rev 5: 1-10; John 1: 43-end

21 Gen 14: 17-20; Rev 19: 6-10; John 2: 1-11

28 Deut 18: 15-20; Rev 12: 1-5a; Mark 1: 21-28

St Thomas of Canterbury, Elsfield

28 4th Sunday of Epiphany

4pm Christingle Service with St Nic's Junior Choir followed by pizza and refreshments

Revd Skye Denno

Elsfield Christmas Gift Fair

Thank you to everyone who supported this event in December either by making, donating or producing

such high quality items to sell. We are especially grateful to everyone who came along to buy and thanks to you we raised £1,016, an outstanding result which will go towards the much needed repair to the external stonework on the church. CB

Coffee Pot

Coffee Pot will be held on Monday 15 January in the Church Hall from 10.30 - 12 noon. At the beginning of the New Year it's an opportunity to meet others, to share news and stories with one another and to welcome 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) .

Churches Together Ecumenical Quiet Days

The EQD on Thursday 18 January 2018 falls within the week of Prayer for Christian Unity and will be using this as its focus. As usual we meet at Marston URC, 352 Marston Road, Oxford, OX3 0JB from 12noon to 4pm (please bring your own lunch). All are welcome.

Epiphany Tea

Don't forget our Epiphany tea party on Sat 13 January, 3-5pm in the Church Hall. All very welcome.

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; jcfl@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

Copy deadline for February's issue is
Thurs 18 January

Hello from Mike Trotman, St Nic's ordinand

I am thoroughly enjoying serving and worshipping as part of the St Nic's community: I previously worked as a primary school teacher, and as a family we were involved with the St. Swithun's church plant in Bournemouth. After moving to Oxford for ministerial training, I am studying at Wycliffe Hall: Oxford is such an extraordinary city and Heidi and I are particularly enjoying cycling along the canal network with our children Sam (13) and Phoebe (10), which has proven to be a newfound family hobby. Being an ordinand is a unique opportunity to integrate studies with everyday experiences by putting into practice what we are learning in college lectures. We move to Fordingbridge, near the New Forest, during the summer of 2018.

Hello from Suse Ison-Stierer, St Nic's ordinand

I'm delighted to be on placement at St Nicholas until Easter 2018. I'm currently in my final year as an ordinand studying at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, along with my three children Joel, Jasmine and Levi and our wonderful zoo!! We are big animal lovers - our flat in Cuddesdon is also home to our dog called Hudson, our two cats, Smokey and Shadow, our house rabbits, Summer and Thunder and our little hamster, Bolt! We moved to Cuddesdon from Wells, in Somerset, and will be returning to Bath and Wells diocese where I will be serving my curacy in a town called Bridgwater.

The Over 50s Club

Our first meeting of the New Year takes place on January 8th at 2.30 in St Nicholas Church Hall. George Hedges will give a talk called "45 Years in the Police Force and setting up 'Rosy' ".

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.

Calling Marston's Cyclists!

Cyclox is listened to by both City and County Councils as the voice of Oxford's everyday cyclists, not the Lycra-clad ones. With the imminent rearrangements of Cherwell Drive and the roundabouts, plus the arrival of the Swan School, Marston's cyclists badly need an alert spokesperson, to raise issues with the County and City Councils. If you could fill this role, please get in touch with Simon Hunt: contact@cyclox.org.

WI meeting in January

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 9 January at 7.30 in the church hall when Melanie King will tell us about *Beverages that changed a Nation*.

43rd Oxford (St Nicholas) Scout Group

A happy New Year to all our customers, supporters and friends! The next Jumble Sale will take place on Saturday 27 January at 2pm at our HQ in Boult's Lane, admission 20p. Please come along: we need your support. Refreshments available. Road collections will take place. (A note of the intended collection day and time will be delivered beforehand.) However, we will be happy to accept items at the Headquarters on the morning of the sale between 9.30am and 11.30am. No TVs, videos, other electrical or large items please.

Old Marston Parish Council

At the 4 December meeting there were no new planning applications; OCC confirmed that it approved 40 Mortimer Drive's application.

Representatives of Galliford Try answered questions on the proposed Swan School. Its planning application would be submitted before Christmas and once done people will be better able to comment.

The Roy Garner Pavilion was officially opened on 3 December with Martin Keown, ex-Arsenal, England and Marston Saints footballer; Roy Garner himself cut the ribbon and unveiled the plaque. Your Parish Council has achieved this incurring no debt, thanks to many people too numerous to name here. The old pavilion building now needs an asbestos survey prior to demolishing and installing new play equipment.

A defibrillator will be installed outside the Mortimer Hall. One for the Church Hall will hopefully early next year.

Tenders are sought to extend the footpath from Elsfield Road cemetery gates in the direction of Marsh Lane. The present grass verge has no path and frequent usage by pedestrians.

The budget and precept for 2018/19 were reviewed and agreed at the meeting with the precept increasing by 3% which will increase a band D property tax by 22p a year.

The Parish Council will meet again on Monday 8 January at 7:30pm and all parishioners are welcome to attend.

From the Registers

Memorial Service

On 2 January 2018 at 2pm there will be a Memorial service for Don Hogg at St Nicholas Church.

Parish Organisations

Allotments Associations

Court Place Farm, Boults Lane. Secretary: Mr. T. Cann.
 Sunday mornings 8.30 am – 11.00 am01865 202104
 Mill Lane Chairman: Dr. M. Unkovskaya07771 702548
 Treasurer Dr David Bullock07902 805784
 Secretary Christine Mitchell07789 991051

Baby and Toddler Club

Gill Hale, 64 Arlington Drive01865 248260

Bellringers:

Practice Friday 7.30pm Learners welcome
 Anthony Hughes, 2, Oxford Road01865 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
 David Blair01865 246959 or 07917 298408
 Eileen Palayiya, 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,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 pm01865 726823

Marston Child Health Clinic

Thursdays 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm0844 4773870

Marston Medical Centre.

..... 01865 767444

Marston Saints Football Club

John Page. www.msfc.org.uk

Mortimer Hall (Village Hall)

Chris Crane, 2 Raymund Road01865 727995

Over 50's Club

Alternate Mondays, 2.30 pm in Church Hall.
 Secretary, Jane Madden01865 209086

Oxford City Council (Marston Representatives)

Mary Clarkson, 8 Dunstan Road, Oxford OX3 9BY01865 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 parents01865 726600

Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Tim Cann, 8 Nicholas Avenue01865 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 week07818 236348

Royal British Legion Club Hall:

Steward01865 243991

Schools

Friends of St Nicholas School.....01865 242838

Scouts — 43rd Oxford (St. Nicholas) Scout Group, Boults Lane

Chair, Tracy McAteer07714 653088 tracymateer@hotmail.co.uk
 Group Leaders, Rob & Lisa Pocock07841 577567 lisapocock@hotmail.co.uk
 Beaver Scouts Leader, Sue Springett01865 251515
 Cub Scouts Leader, Karen Holliday01865 760559
 Scouts Leader, Linda Phillips07804 925705

St. Nicholas Church Hall and Committee Room

Gill Hale, 64 Arlington Drive01865 248260

Women's Institute

Second Tuesday in month, 7.30 pm in Church Hall.
 President, Sue Hawes01865 247106
 Secretary, Mavis Curtis.....01865 351325

Trade Directory

Building/Builders Services

Colin Simpson: High Class Painting, Decorating and Coving etc:
 10 Dent's Close OX3 ONP01865 742842
 Trevor Dines: No job too small - plumbing, complete bathrooms
 from fitting a door to building an extension. Free estimates.
 8, Raymund Road01865 45285, 07889 263140
 Daniel Kelly: Painting and decorating services: All interior/exterior work
 covered. Free quotations01865 738958
 73, Coniston Ave. Headington OX3 0AW07725 819264

Cleaning Carpets & Upholstery

Grimebusters: Quality carpet, rug & upholstery cleaning at competitive
 rates. Free estimates01865 726983

Complementary Medicine

Oxford Therapies: Pain relief, stress management & more
 www.oxford-therapies.com07913 503257

Electricians

Brian Turner: Registered NICEIC domestic installer01865 728729
 All work guaranteed. 33, Salford Road07538 382683
 brian.r.turner@ntlworld.com
 Craig Holloway Electrical Ltd:07868 706392
 6 Clays Close, Marston OX3 ONXenquiries@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 week01865 767780
 126 London Road, Headington OX3 9EDwww.dhancock.co.uk.
 S & R Childs NAFD, part of Dignity plc. A British Company
 69 London Road, Headington, OX3 9AA01865 427272

Hair and Beauty

Fiona's Hair Salon: new location -
 Salford Road, Old Marston OX3 0RX01865 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 1RL01865 251231

Locksmith & speciality car keys

Keybit 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 Road01865 244608
 Forwood: 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

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

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 directory in Marston.