St Nicholas, Marston and St Thomas of Canterbury, Elsfield

# MARSTON TIMES

May 2022 stnicholasmarston.org.uk Donations welcome

**St Nicholas Church**

*And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.* Matthew 16.18

Our wonderful St Nicholas church building is about 1,000 years old. Whilst we should not let old stones stand in the way of our worship of the Good Lord, contemplating the history and longevity of our congregation and church may put some of the Church's 21st century travails into perspective and give us all encouragement for the future.

The first architects of our church, in the 12th century, were a bit stumped when looking for rock for the foundations of their new construction. Marston means marshy place, so they chose the highest ground amidst the wetlands to construct what is probably the oldest building and certainly the longest lasting institution in the village. Tony Price, our former vicar, even speculated that the site and Christian community date back almost to St Birinius who brought the gospel to these parts in 634AD.

The earliest mention of the church at Marston is in a (probably forged) charter of 1122, by which the chapel at Marston was transferred to the Augustinian Canons at St Frideswide. The first recorded vicar is Osbert, son of Hereward, who was in post about 1210. The first quarter of the 13th century saw £3-6s-8d, of an annual income of £12, set aside for the salary of a resident vicar, indicating that we had our own church by that time.

The Black Death (1348-49) killed about one third of England's population, with no doubt a significant impact on Marston: indeed the then vicar, John de Bradeley, was a victim. The 12th century church has left us the magnificent chancel arch, the seven arches of the nave and the inner south door, all of

Headington stone. In the 15th century, perhaps before the effects of the Black Death, a modest tower was built, the aisles widened, the roof raised and the clerestory (the windows above the roof line) and East window constructed. In the next century the south aisle was rebuilt and the south porch repaired. In 1962 the gallery, taken down in 1883, was replaced in Japanese oak and in 1977 a new vestry was added on the north side of the church, which now blends in well with the historic structure.

Our church has suffered many tribulations over these ten centuries. Both congregation and building have been rescued from near dereliction and many kind and dedicated souls have devoted themselves to the multitude of roles that keep a community together. We have inherited a magnificent heritage, upon which we can build for a glorious future.

James Lawrie (with thanks to Tony Kelly's history published in 2000; copies are available in the church)

**Vicar** Revd Skye Denno 202988
**Church Administrator** Dr Alison Gray 580354
**Churchwardens** Judith Piggott 764693; Eileen Palayiwa 725423
James Plunket 358170; Justine McCool 358578

# BENEFICE OF MARSTON & ELSFIELD

Here at St Nicholas and St Thomas, 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 on 01865 580354.**

**Wednesday 9:30am Holy Communion at St Nicholas Church**
**Wednesday 9pm Compline LIVE online St Nicholas Church Facebook page**

## Sunday 1st May - Third Sunday after Easter

9am Short ***Taize*** Communion Service at St Nicholas Church. **The service is LIVE streamed onto YouTube.**

10:30am **Green Church** Start with prayer at the Memorial Garden and end with tea and coffee in Marston Eco Hub (Vicarage)

6pm **EVENSONG** at St Nicholas Church.

## Sunday 8th May - Fourth Sunday after Easter

8am **BCP** Communion Service at St Nicholas Church

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

**10am MESSY CHURCH in the Church Hall**

## Sunday 15th May - Fifth Sunday after Easter

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

**4pm SERVICE in the Church Hall.**

## Sunday 22nd May - Sixth Sunday after Easter

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

## Sunday 29th May - ASCENSION DAY

8am **BCP** Communion Service at St Nicholas Church

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

**What to quote in May?**
**The Noble Nature by Ben Jonson**

It is not growing like a tree
In bulk, doth make Man better be;
Or standing long an oak, three hundred year,
To fall a log at last, dry, bald, and sere:

A lily of a day
Is fairer far in May,
Although it fall and die at night –
It was the plant and flower of Light.
In small proportions we just beauties see:
And in short measures life may perfect be.

**What to see in May?**

May is a busy time for nature, full of colour, life and birdsong. Look out for swifts, which return from southern Africa this month. They gather into screaming parties at dusk and swoop low over

rooftops near where they nest. Hedgerows are full of Mayflower, the pale pink blossom of hawthorn. Why not take an early morning walk or just sit in your garden and enjoy the best of Marston's dawn chorus, a great start to the day? You may spot a

bee-fly in your garden or local park. These pollinators (which neither sting nor bite) gather nectar from flowers using their long tongues.

**What to cook?**

We are now in the very short asparagus season!

**Asparagus Tart**

Serves 4 – 6

**Ingredients**

**Pastry**

60 gm butter
60 gm white fat (eg Trex)
I medium egg yolk, beaten
225 gm plain flour
(or buy 250gm ready made short crust pastry)

**Filling**

300 gm trimmed asparagus
150 ml double cream
135 ml Greek yoghurt
2 eggs beaten
50 gm Gruyère or cheddar cheese grated

Rub the fat and butter into the flour until it resembles fine breadcrumbs (or use a food processor). Mix in the egg yolk (plus a little water if needed) to form a stiff dough. Press it into a disc shape, wrap in cling film and put in the fridge for 20 mins. Heat oven to 180C/170 Fan/ 350F /gas mark 4
Grease and line a 22cm round tart tin. Roll out the pastry dough on a floured surface and use it to line the tin. Mend any tears or holes with extra bits of pastry and save leftovers to make jam tarts.
Prick the bottom of the tart with a fork and line with baking paper and baking beans.
Bake for 15 mins, then take out of the oven and

remove the baking paper and beans. Brush the bottom of the tart with the left over egg white and bake for another 5 mins. Put to one side and make the filling. Cut the asparagus just below the heads and set aside. Chop the rough end of the stalks and discard. Cut the stems into about 3 inch pieces and slice longwise. Place the stems in boiling water and cook for 3 mins, then add the asparagus heads and cook for a further 2 mins. Drain in a colander and pour cold water over the asparagus to cool quickly.
Mix together the eggs, cream and yoghourt. Stir in the cheese. Arrange the asparagus in the pastry case and pour over the cream mixture.
Place on a baking tray and bake for about 30 to 35 mins until the mixture is firm but still has a bit of a wobble.
This tart freezes well if wrapped in cling film when cold. Defrost before eating.

St. Nicholas Marston

Eco Market Marston

Marston Community Gardening Eco Hub

**All welcome to our Marston community**

# ECO MARKET

## Sunday 15th May

## 11:30am-3:00pm

At Marston Eco Hub
Marston Vicarage
Old Marston
Elsfield Road
OX3 0PR

**Bring cash & card**

**Outdoor & indoor event**

A curated event with all things good for People and Planet

FEATURING: Handmade cards & other crafts, enamelware, jewellery, Indian, oriental, West Papuan food and stocks, plastic-free storage & containers, refill stations for food & household items, Chinese plants, information stalls, swap stalls for clothes, books, plants, seeds, crops & gardening items and seed planting workshop!

*Bring your mug, containers, cutlery, bags, bottles to refill, and plants, books, seeds, gardening items, clothes to swap*

https://stnicholasmarston.org.uk/
https://marstoncommunitygardening.wordpress.com/

**Elections!**
Thu 5 May is an election day in Old Marston.
**One election** is for the Parish Council:
there are 15 people standing for 12 seats.
You can vote for up to 12 people on the ballot paper.
**The other election** is for 1 councillor to represent Marston ward on Oxford City Council. 4 candidates are standing: you can vote for one.
The polling station is located at
Mortimer Hall
Oxford Road
OX3 0PH

St. Nicholas Marston

# Pause for Thought

Pause for thought painting by Akash Bhisikar

- Throughout the year, guests will be invited to help us dig deeper with talks on a variety of subjects, following a Q&A times. Refreshments will be provided.

February Sunday 27th - 7:30pm - **When Grief Equals Love**. - *with Lizzie Pickering*

March Friday 25th - 7:30pm - **Unveiled: Women of the Old Testament and the Choices They Made.** - *with Revd Clare Hayns & Micah Hayns*

April Sunday 24th - 6pm - **Community Action for Climate Change** - *with Alistair Morris*

May Sunday 22nd - 6pm - **Psalms: The Poetry of the Psalms** - with *Joel Denno*

June Sunday 12th - 6pm - **Praying with Icons** - *with Revd. Cannon Richard Peers*

July Saturday 9th - 10am - **Jonah: The Big Fish, Race Relations & Comedy** - *with Joel Denno*

November Thursday 24th - 7:30pm - **Old Marston During the English Civil War** - *with Colonel Nicolas Lipscombe*

***All events are held at St Nicholas Church on Elsfield Road.***
***Do look at our Website for details about Speakers***

St. Nicholas Marston

# Pause for prayer 2022

- **Throughout the year, there will be times for us to meet with others to pray.**

February Tues 15th - 6:30-7:30pm - An hour of silent prayer

March Fri 4th - 2pm at Northway Church. *World Day of Prayer* with Churches Together.

Sat 5th - 10-12noon - Open Prayer. 11:45am Communion (focus on Mission Partners, Divya Shanthi, CMS, Croatia, West Papua)

April Sat 2nd - Celtic Lent Quiet Day with David Cole

May Wed 18th - 7:30-9pm. Guided Prayer
Reflective prayer with music, readings & poems ending with Compline at 9pm

June Wed 15th - 6:30-7:30pm - An hour of silent prayer

July Sat 30th - 12:30pm Picnic Lunch & Prayer
At the Vicarage with a time of Open Prayer

August Mon 22nd - 7pm Celtic Evening Prayer

September Thurs 15th - 6:30-7:30pm - An hour of silent prayer

October Sat 15th - 8-9:30am Breakfast Prayer
Please let Alison know in advance if you would like to attend.

November Wed 9th - 7:30-9pm. Guided Prayer
Reflective prayer with music, readings & poems ending with Compline at 9pm

December Thurs 8th - Celtic Advent Quiet Day with David Cole

**Old Marston Library**
We continue to recruit new volunteers to enable our library to reopen fully from May. Would you be able to give 1½ hours of your time each month to help us do this? Please email marstontimes@gmail.com for more information.

**Marston Community Gardening**

We are coming up for our 4th anniversary in June. We've come a long way since our first big project, planting the little orchard on Orchard Triangle next to St Nic's school with the help of the schoolchildren.

Sometimes, with all that's going on in the world, it's hard to remain positive – but we know that if we can all continue to help and nurture each other and our environment we will be alright.

We came across this film the other day – filmed at the planting of Croft Road Community Wood in 2019 - and it was so uplifting and inspiring, we thought we'd share it again….It's only 2 mins long, so do watch and share it. Hope it makes you smile.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwL9Dg8kDdk

Thanks again to you, our home grown Friends of the Earth, for making it and for showing what a truly tremendous community we have here in Marston, where over 220 of you joined in to plant trees. It was a real coming together of local people, so enjoyable, fun and social, satisfying, inspiring and uplifting. A real sense of hope and togetherness, a definite positive feeling for our community and the future..

Best future, Alistair
MCG
07804 847285

**WI**

Our next meeting will be on Tue 10 May at 7.30pm, in the Church Hall. Our speaker, Mary Wood, will give a talk of her adventures in New Zealand. Find out what happened because of the Covid Rules! Please come and join us for a cup of tea.

**Coffee Pot**

Coffee Pot will be held on 16 May from 10.30am to 12 noon. This group is primarily for those who have been bereaved but we welcome all who would like to meet more people. For further details please contact Joel Denno on 07864 136090 or joeldenno@yahoo.co.uk

**May dates for MCG**

**Sun 1 May** at 2pm at Court Place Farm Allotments

**A seedling and seed swap/sale** Bring your surplus seedlings and swap them for something you haven't grown or want more of - or buy some if you have none to swap.

**Gardening Together** MCG will be planting, watering and weeding at the Community Allotments. Meet on plots 6,7 & 8. Meet new friends, pick crops and share gardening advice. Bring gardening gloves if you have them.

**Marston Wombles** are also visiting Court Place Farm Allotments to do some great litter picking. All welcome to join in. Hot drinks, gardening tools and litter pickers will be provided.

**Mon 2 May** 6 -7.30pm

**Low Carbon Marston Social at Up in Arms pub**

If you are interested in insulating your house, fitting solar panels, lowering your carbon footprint or generally retrofitting your home in some way and reducing your energy bills – please do come along for an informal chat. Low Carbon Marston is new and just getting organised – so feel free to join in.

**Sun 8 May** 10.30 -1.30pm

**Work Party Gathering at Marston Forest Garden**

Come and lend a hand or just come along for a chat and find out more about what we're growing and how to become involved. We have masses of space to plant annual vegetables, herbs and perennial vegetables so please bring along any seeds or seedlings you'd like to share. Picnic together 1pm.

**Lunch Club in May**

The Lunch Club will be held on **Fri 27 May** at 12.30pm with a Jubilee themed lunch. Suggested donation of £3 as usual. Please book through Alison at the Parish Office on 01865 580354 (even if you have attended before, you need to book each time). Early booking advised as we only have 25 places.

**Christian Aid week**

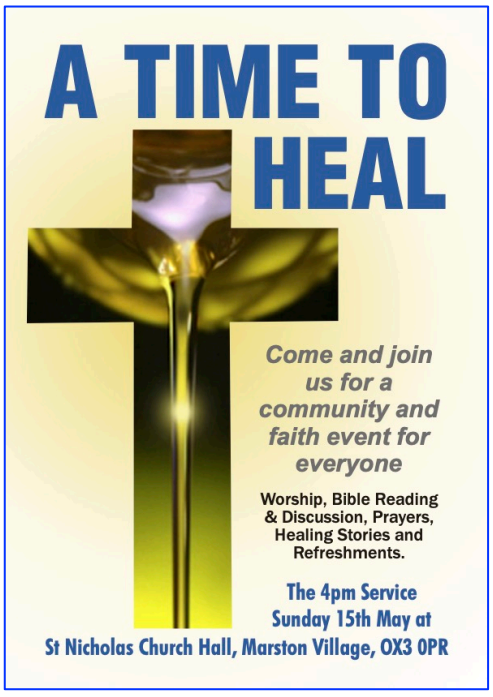
Have you got a pot of loose change in your cupboard? Would you like to donate your loose coins to a good cause? It's Christian Aid Week from 15-21 May. In church, there will be a big water cooler bottle, where you can deposit your loose coins (or notes if you wish!) We will count them all up and pass them onto Christian Aid, which works with the poorest people in the world, setting up programmes with local communities, campaigning for changes to support the most needy and working in emergency situations. See their latest video about Janet Zirugo in Zimbabwe and the difference a Christian Aid project has made to Janet, her family and her community. (68) Janet's Story - YouTube

**Old Marston Library**

We are hoping to have our library fully open for browsing again by May, but we need more volunteers! If you could help (for just 90 minutes a month) email janlawrie@btinternet.com

**This is the Day**

Come and join us at our Dementia Inclusive Service on Wed 11 May 2.30 - 4pm at Marston URC, 352 Marston Rd OX3 0JB. All are 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. Val Stolton 246157/07712 495406 valstolton@aol.com




**Old Marston Parish Council Meeting Notes**

At April's meeting, the PC looked at planning applications from 15A Mill Lane, which they asked to have called in, plus 86 Arlington Drive and 36 Cavendish Drive to which the council had no objections.

Oxford City Council informed the PC that planning applications for Hill View Farm, Land West of Mill Lane, 52 Mill Lane and the garages at the rear of Mortimer Drive had all been approved.

Residents from St Nicholas Mobile Home site attended the meeting and expressed concerns about the potential development at Marston Paddock in Butts Lane. The PC have raised concerns and asked for it to be called in. OCC had discussed the application at a recent planning meeting, but the PC was not made aware of it being on their agenda, so was unable to make representation. Our Clerk has written to OCC, pointing out the concerns of the PC and the residents.

The PC is still looking for residents willing to serve on the Community Emergency Action Plan as local response volunteers, as well as trained first aiders, 4X4 owner/drivers, chainsaw owners and tree surgeons. If anyone is interested, then please contact the Clerk.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday 9 May at 7pm.

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 Vlad ..... 07919 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 Barker ..... 01865 604617 or 07774 050056

Coffee Pot
Coffee morning, monthly, Monday
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, ..... 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 Robinson ..... 01865 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 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

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 Vallance ..... vallance.whanau@gmail.com
Scouts Leader, Linda Phillips ..... 07804 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.....

## Trade Directory

Airport transfers
Colin Dobson (taxi to anywhere)..... 07429 349187
MJM Airport transfers..... 07983 225474

Architectural services for Planning Permissions/ Building Regulations
Digby Architectural: 4 Broughton Close ..... 07979 756918

Building/Builders Services
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 Road ..... 01865 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 visits .....www.el-well.com .....01865 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 4LY ..... 01865 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 1RL..... 01865 251231

Pharmacy
Marston Pharmacy: 11 Old Marston Road..... 01865 243824

Plumbing, Heating & Gas
Lemarsh Building Services – plumbing and heating
22 Marsh Lane..... 01865 761896, 07484 274331
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

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