



More Au Revoir than Goodbye

Dear Friends,

Seven years ago I was in what the church calls 'discernment' for ministry. It's a time when a prospective minister and the Church are setting out together to discern whether he or she is truly being called by God to his service or, I suppose, whether the candidate might just have thought it cool to be a



priest! That process continues through ordination training and curacy, through years of testing one's vocation. But as we both come to recognise that the calling is genuine, a new process of discernment may begin: exactly what is the shape of the ministry God is calling me into? As I write this in early June, having just received formal notice that I have successfully completed my curacy, I find myself in that process, that second discernment. Through prayer, through being attentive to the things going on around me and reflecting deeply on how my whole life, from birth until now, has shaped me for right now and for what is to come, I am looking for guidance. For many years,

through the diverse experiences of life and and work, I have held to one guiding principle: Go where the love is. There may be disappointment, even deep heartache, caused by doors that seem to close, but as Jesus stands at the gateway of our hearts, we might, in truth, discover that a door is being held ajar rather than locked and bolted. Then others fly open, inviting us to something new. There is always some trepidation in crossing the threshold of the newly opened door, like entering Narnia through a wardrobe, but I have learned to regard life as an adventure.

So what am I discerning at this time? For sure God wants to use my skills as an ornithologist and communicator to spread the message that God loves all his creatures, and that includes people as well as Robins! It may take a deeper degree of insight to understand how God's wisdom and love includes a Coronavirus, but I believe we can only find the sense of life's tribulations, as well as its joys, by focusing on our own experience and relationship with God: going where the love is.

Through this I have found the wisdom of God that is woven deep in the fabric of creation and in our own scriptures. But of the greatest significance for me is that God suffered an ignominious death in human form on a cross to demonstrate the ends to which he os prepared to go to save us from ourselves, to prove his love for creation. And lest we think that Christ died only for human salvation, recall that genetically, most of body cells are not us: mostly they protect us, help us to digest our food and a whole range of other good things in return for our hospitality.

So to be a human is to be a community of beings: and what is a community but a collection of individuals living in mutual dependency? And what is mutual dependency but love? I am deeply thankful for the love I have found in this community over the past four years and I have no doubt that wherever God is guiding me, the adventure will continue to include the benefice of Marston and Elsfield.

Revd Andy (former) Curate

BENEFICE OF MARSTON & ELSFIELD



Here at St Nicholas and St Thomas, we will be offering a mixture of in-venue & Online 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 Facebook page

Sunday 3rd July

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

10:30am **Green Church**. *Summer Walk*. 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 10th July

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 17th July

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

10am Holy Communion at St Thomas Church.

4pm CONTEMPORARY SERVICE in the Church Hall - with The Band

Sunday 24th July

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.**

Saturday 30th - 12:30pm Picnic Lunch & Prayer At the Vicarage

Sunday 31st July

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 July?

Midsummer night itch by Niels Mogens Bodecker

Mosquito is out,
it's the end of the day;
she's humming and hunting
her evening away.
Who knows why such hunger
arrives on such wings
at sundown? I guess
it's the nature of things.

The Common Cormorant by Christopher Isherwood

The common cormorant or shag
Lays eggs inside a paper bag.
You follow the idea, no doubt?
It is to keep the lightning out.

But what these unobservant birds
Have never noticed is that herds
Of wandering bears may come with buns
And steal the bags to hold the crumbs.



Nature notes: What to see in July?

July is peak butterfly time. Look out for the pretty orange and brown gatekeeper, also known as hedge brown (pictured). You may be lucky to see a hummingbird hawk-moth, a migratory species, often



mistaken for a small hummingbird. They favour

pollen-rich plants such as honeysuckle and jasmine. Hedgerow plants this month include the purple-flowered bittersweet, also called woody nightshade - later in the summer it has clusters of toxic red berries. Look out for house sparrows enjoying dust baths to keep their plumage in good condition. July is our hottest month so keep putting out clean water for thirsty birds and nocturnal animals.

What to cook?

A quick supper for 2 or for 1 and save the rest for another day

Ingredients

4 sausages
½ onion chopped
1 carrot chopped
½ red pepper chopped
1 tbsp tomato ketchup
1 tin chopped tomatoes
1 tsp dried basil
1 small pack washed spinach
60g pasta per person

Method

Remove the skin from the sausages, chop up the meat and place in a large frying pan. Fry until browned.

In a saucepan cook the pasta in boiled, salted water. Drain when al dente (*not soggy!*) and keep hot in the



pan by covering with a lid.

While cooking the pasta add the chopped onion, carrot and pepper to the meat and fry until softened (about 5 minutes).

Add the tomatoes, ketchup and basil. Once heated through, add the spinach and stir until wilted. Serve with the cooked pasta. If you want to save half for another day, split the meat mixture before adding the spinach. When cold, refrigerate and add the remainder of the spinach once the mixture has been reheated. Use within 2 days.



Starting Mon 13 June!

Book Club for Young People @ Old Marston Library

Are you 8 - 11 years old?

Enjoy reading, talking
and being creative?

Want to meet new friends & books?

2nd Monday of month

4.15 - 5.15pm

Book a place! Email:

oldmarston.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Blessing Boxes

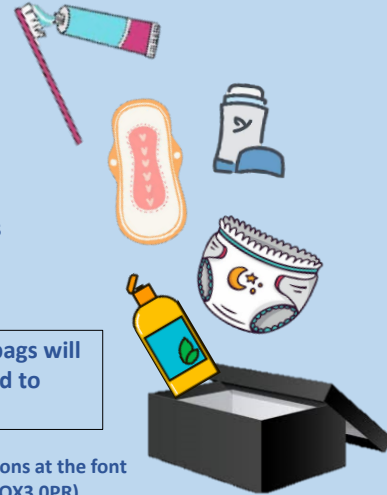


In partnership with St
Nicholas' Primary School



We need shoe boxes and gift bags which we will fill with toiletry items such as:

- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Deodorants
- Shampoos
- Shower gel
- Bubble bath
- Pull up nappies
- Sanitary towels
- Washing detergent



These boxes and bags will then be distributed to local families

Please drop off donations at the font in St Nicholas church (OX3 0PR)



Pause for prayer 2022



Throughout the year there have been times for us to meet with others to pray. Here are the remaining dates...

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 13th - 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

Thank you to all who contributed to the collection made after our Music for a Summer Evening concert. £673.62 was raised for Divya Shanthi.



Pause for Thought



Pause for thought painting by Akash Bhisikar

- Throughout this year, guests have been invited to help us dig deeper with talks on a variety of subjects, following a Q&A times.
- Here are the remaining ones this year - don't miss out!
- All are welcome and refreshments will be provided.

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





All welcome to our Marston community

ECO MARKET

Sunday 17th July 2022

11:30am-2:30pm
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: Orinoco, Tribe Zero Waste, Triple Bee & Wild Life Trust Stalls, Kiran's high-class everyday used articles, industrial up-cycled jewelry, Tzu Chi foundation UK pens, containers & clothes, eco storage items, baskets & soap dishes, pottery items, homemade reusable kitchen roll, face cloths, make up remover, wipes & soap savers, homemade knitted items, refill stations for food & household items, swap stalls for clothes (School uniform special), books, toys & plants (Chinese money plants special), bird seed packets to giveaway, homemade bread, loaves & rolls, veggie West Papua food, vegan Chinese food, homemade Indian snacks & finger food and free drinks (Tea, coffee, juice etc.).

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

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



Come and join us for

Holy Communion



On Wednesdays at
9:30am in
St Nicholas Church

Join us for coffee & cake after the service

All are Welcome

OPENING HOURS AT THE GIVING GARAGE

Marston Eco Hub - OX3 0PR

Pick up or drop off **FREE** plant pots, vases,
teapots and other items,
and **BORROW** garden equipment
(ladders, strimmers, wheelbarrows, lawn mowers etc).

LOAVES & FISHES - COMMUNITY LARDER
With a small stock of essential food items

**EVERY SATURDAY
9-11am
& 1st Sunday of the
month 12-2pm**

Further details - Skye - Tel: 01865 202988
& joskso@yahoo.co.uk

Items to borrow for FREE:

- Rakes and garden tools**
- Apple press (for making your own cider)**
- Multiple sized ladders**
- Sorting seed trays**
- Forty five wine glasses to borrow**
- Two grass trimmers**
- Small wood chipper**
- Wheel barrow**
- Water pressure (for cleaning patios)**
- Two trolleys**
- Lawn mower**
- Leaf blowers**
- Eight litter pickers**
- Strimmers**
- Scarifier**
- Gazebo (Med)**
- Electric propagator**
- Bike rake for car**

Sign out sheet is in the Giving Garage
A maximum of two weeks for items to be loan
out.

WI

Our next meeting will be on Tue 12 July at 7.30pm, in the Church Hall. Please come and join Peter Tickler as he leads us into the world of CRIME FICTION!

Coffee Pot

Coffee Pot will be held on 18 July 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 Eileen Palayiwa on 01865 725423 or eileenpalayiwa@yahoo.com.

Lunch Club in July

This month's Lunch Club will be held on **Fri 30 July at 12.30pm**. Suggested donation of £3 as usual. Please book through Alison at the Parish Office on 01865 580354.

Old Marston Library



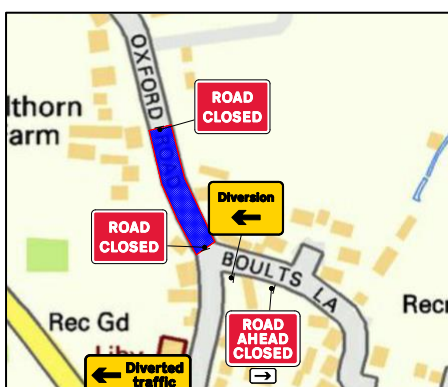
We still need more volunteers to keep our library fully open: what could be more worthwhile than helping to encourage literacy? If you could spare 90 minutes each month, (on a Tue or Thu evening 5.30-7, on Fri afternoons 2-3.30 or 3.30-5 or on Sat mornings 9.30-11 or 11-12.30) please email janlawrie@btinternet.com

Christian Aid

Thanks to everyone who put their loose change into the bottle for Christian Aid. We raised £516.59!

Temporary Road Closure 22-25 August

Please note that there are plans to close Oxford Road from 22-25 Aug while electricity supply to a property is being dealt with. Further information can be obtained by contacting Emma Owen on 03450 702322 or emma.owen2@sse.com



Parish Council Meeting notes for June

At the June PC meeting the PC looked at a planning application from 76 Cherwell Drive to which it had no objections. Oxford City Council informed the PC that an application from 140 Oxford Road had been refused, 15A Mill Lane had been withdrawn while 69 Arlington Drive and 52 Mill Lane had been approved. Old Marston Library will be 60 years old in September. OCC and Old Marston Parish Council are planning to celebrate this occasion: more information to follow here.

The PC reviewed the safety of cycling report in and around the parish. County Councillor Mark Lygo and the Clerk are arranging a visit of county officers and parish councillors of Old Marston to inspect first-hand potential danger points and to decide what could be done to increase safety for cyclists and pedestrians.

The PC has upgraded the IT equipment used by councillors to make it easier for them to fulfil their role. This will also mean a step closer towards a paper-free PC allowing the clerk more time for meetings while saving ink, paper and envelopes.

The project to paint the wall leading to the underpass from Mortimer Hall recreation ground is now possible, after OCC set aside funding to help with the preparation of the surface. The PC will need to provide the paint and organise a team of volunteers.

The next meeting of the PC will be on Mon 4 July.

The Clerk can be contacted by phone (203139) 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



Oxsrad

Oxsrad is a registered charity, providing a fully inclusive sports and recreation centre for all. Like many charities and sports facilities, OXSRAD was badly hit by the pandemic. While many of our wonderful members and groups have returned to the centre, membership is unfortunately still well below pre-pandemic levels.

This, in combination with a significant reduction in the availability of the charitable grants OXSRAD has previously benefited from, means that the centre cannot currently afford to continue running its full schedule.

Therefore, in order to make best use of the limited funding available, OXSRAD will be moving to reduced opening hours from 20 June. From this date, the centre will be open Monday to Thursday 08:00 to 21:00, Friday 08:00 to 13:00, and Saturday to Sunday 09:00 to 13:00. We apologise for any inconvenience



this may cause our members and hope that you will continue to support us. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause our members and hope that you will continue to support us, whether through your continued membership, valued donations or presence at the centre. For further information please contact Paul Saxton, General Manager management@oxsrad.org

The destruction of Old Marston village

This is an opinion, written by Bob Avery; it does not necessarily reflect the views of the Marston Times' editorial team.



Since the introduction of the now infamous and widely unpopular Local Plan, countless villages and large tracts of open countryside have been wantonly



swallowed up for so-called affordable housing.

Sadly it does now seem that our peaceful village is next on the list, with consent given for 40 housing units in a field known to all as The Paddock, which is situated in the very narrow Butts Lane. Significant, widespread objections were mostly overruled and the Planning Application was given the go-ahead. A Road Traffic survey, made during the 1970s, stated that the village was already congested with traffic. A previous planning application, made in 1991, was refused, following objections from the Highways Agency that Butts Lane was too narrow and the exit into Church Lane was a blind spot. On the latest application the Highways Agency once again objected on the same grounds, then, strangely, withdrew their comments.

Although there has been a myriad of objections, little or no assurance has been given to residents about any of these issues. This over-development within Old Marston will lead to extra pollution, congestion and overcrowding. Our ancient village will be destroyed.



Parish Organisations

Allotments Associations

- Court Place Farm, Boults Lane. Chair: Jane Wilson
membership@cpf-allotments.org.uk
- Sunday mornings 8.30 am – 11.00 am07530 068977
Mill Lane Chairman: Dr. M. Unkovskaya07771 702548
Treasurer Dana Vlad07919 493580
Secretary Christine Mitchell07789 991051
- Baby and Toddler Club Weds 10-11.30 term time in Parish Hall
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 Barkermusicdirector@stnicholasmarston.org.uk
- 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 pm01865 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 Road01865 727995
- Oxford City Council (Marston Representatives)
Mary Clarkon, 8 Dunstan Road, Oxford OX3 9BY01865 751493
Alistair Morris, 55 Arlington Drive, Oxford OX3 OSJ07804 847285
- 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: Duncan Hatfield07706 998224
- Pre-school at Mortimer Hall
open 9 sessions a week07818 236348
- Royal British Legion Club Hall:
Steward01865 243991
- Schools
Friends of St Nicholas School01865 242838
- Scouts — 43rd Oxford (St. Nicholas) Scout Group, Boults Lane
Group Scout Leader, Tim Greaves tim.greaves@keble.oxon.org
Beaver Scout Leader, Sue Springett01865 251515
Cub Scout Leader, Rachel Vallancevallance.whanau@gmail.com
Scouts Leader, Linda Phillips07804 925705
- St. Nicholas Church Hall and Committee Room
Alison Gray, Parish Office01865 580354
- Women's Institute
Meetings at 7.30 second Tue of each month - new members welcome!
President, Sue Hawes 01865 247106
Secretary.....

Trade Directory

- Airport transfers
Colin Dobson (taxi to anywhere)07429 349187
MJM Airport transfers07983 225474
- Architectural services for Planning Permissions/ Building Regulations
Digby Architectural: 4 Broughton Close07979 756918
- 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 452851, 07889 263140
Daniel Kelly: Painting and decorating services:07917 607949
- 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
Frances Valentine: Reflexologist – massage to reflex points in feet
for relaxation, stress-relief and re-balance 07726 312719
- 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
12 Arlington Dr, Marston OX3 OSHenquiries@craigholloway.co.uk
- Elderly wellbeing
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 services01865 553737
D L Hancock Ltd (Independent family-run firm)
Personal 24 hour service 7 days a week01865 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 ORX01865 241632
- 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 Road01865 243824
- Plumbing, Heating & Gas
Lemarsh Building Services – plumbing and heating
22 Marsh Lane01865 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 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

