



Walking around Marston you discover big conker trees. My favourite ones are along the lane from the Vicky Arms and just outside the Red Lion. Every time I go past one of these trees I pick up a conker and place it in my pocket. It's a force of habit. As a child my favourite conkers were the ones we called cheese graters - the ones with a flat side. These are still my favourite.



When I was younger it was a fight to get the conkers: everyone wanted them. We would go out before breakfast and raid the trees, bringing back

handfuls of our precious treasure. We carefully washed them and divided them into piles. After school we got dad to drill holes. Nowadays, with children more interested in screens and schools banning conker games (because of health and safety) there are no queues or conker fights anymore. Instead, conkers are left to be picked up by nostalgic adults or squashed by cars. In our house we have little piles of them everywhere; my pile is here in my office on my desk. We know that Autumn has really arrived when the conkers are out of their shells. The artist in me is amazed by the variety of their colours - the browns, the creams and black swirls. No one of them is the same. I also love the texture of them in my hand - cold and smooth to the touch.

As I was out walking the other day I noticed a conker falling to the ground. The force of the fall and the impact of hitting the ground caused it to pop open and out rolled a shiny new conker - completely undamaged.

What made it fall I wonder?

Was the conker now too heavy for the branch to hold?

There was certainly no wind, no rain to force it from its captivity.

Had the tree done all that it could? Had the time come for it to let go - to release it?

On the tree the conker had been kept safe, within a prickly, protective shell. Now it was vulnerable. But in this vulnerable state it was free to find soil, to fulfil its potential and grow into a fine horse chestnut tree.

It's interesting how the simple and ordinary things in life cause you to reflect on something much bigger. As I walked across the park, I wondered what prevents me from leaving the tree, as it were. I wondered what scares me about falling. I feel apprehensive about a fall, about being bruised by its impact, but through prayer I may be able to recognise the possibilities and new beginnings that follow it.

It can be hard, even painful when things or people or situations or jobs, which we think are keeping us together, let us down suddenly or cause us to feel like we are falling. Maybe we could be inspired by nature and look harder at what is being released by the impact. What potential is now freed, to flourish and grow?

As we journey through October, as the days get darker and the nights start earlier, remember to allow life and nature to surprise you. God sees the bigger picture and sees our potential - sometimes that can only begin when we are released from the tree we were clinging to.

[Deuteronomy 31:6](#)

Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.

[Philippians 4:13](#)

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Much love as always

Skye x



Vicar Revd Skye Denno 202988

Parish Office 580354

Churchwardens Judith Piggott 764693 & Jan Lawrie 250862

James Plunket 358170 & Justine McCool 358578

## BENEFICE OF MARSTON & ELSFIELD



Welcome to St Nicholas and St Thomas.

Further details can be found on our

website - [stnicholasmarston.org.uk](http://stnicholasmarston.org.uk)

Or call the office on 01865 580354.

Every Wednesday at 9:30am we have  
Holy Communion at St Nicholas

### Sunday 2nd October

9am Short *Taizé* Communion Service at St Nicholas Church.

The service is LIVE streamed onto YouTube.

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

6pm **CHORAL EVENSONG** at Holy Trinity Headington Quarry.

### Sunday 9th October - HARVEST FESTIVAL

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

10am **HARVEST FESTIVAL & 900 YEARS ANNIVERSARY** at St Nicholas Church. The service is LIVE streamed onto YouTube.

### Sunday 16th October - Oxford Half Marathon

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

The service is LIVE streamed onto YouTube.

10am **MATINS** at St Thomas Church, Elsfield.

**The 4pm.** Informal service in the Church Hall - *with* The Band

### Sunday 23rd October

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.

### Sunday 30th October

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.

6pm All Souls Memorial Service at St Nicholas Church.

### What to quote in October?

Unharvested by Robert Frost  
A scent of ripeness from over a wall.  
And come to leave the routine road  
And look for what had made me stall,  
There sure enough was an apple tree  
That had eased itself of its summer load,  
And of all but its trivial foliage free,  
Now breathed as light as a lady's fan.  
For there had been an apple fall  
As complete as the apple had given man.  
The ground was one circle of solid red.

May something go always unharvested!  
May much stay out of our stated plan,  
Apples or something forgotten and left,  
So smelling their sweetness would be no theft.

### Nature notes: What to see in October?

Wild berries adorn the October hedgerows providing essential food for insects, birds and mammals. Look out for hips and haws (the berries of dog rose and hawthorn) and purple sloes (the fruit of blackthorn).



Tawny owls are vocal in the autumn months establishing their territories particularly on clear nights. Our most abundant owl, they can be found in parks and suburbs. October sees the return of redwings and fieldfares, attractive winter thrushes from northern Europe. They come here to escape harsher winters and enjoy plentiful food including berries. You may hear the "seep seep" call of redwings overhead as they migrate at night.

### What to cook?

#### Apple and Almond Pudding

##### Ingredients

1 kilo of peeled and sliced cooking apples  
60 gm muscavado/ brown sugar  
1 tbsp raisins/cranberries (optional)  
110 gm butter at room temperature  
110 gm castor sugar  
2 large beaten eggs at room temperature  
110 gm ground almonds  
50 gm flaked almonds

### Method

Place the apples and brown sugar into a lidded pan with about 1 tbsp of water and heat gently until softened. Stir to prevent burning from time to time. Butter a large pie dish and put the apples in when soft. In a mixing bowl, cream the butter and castor sugar until pale and fluffy. Beat in the eggs a little at a time. Fold in the ground almonds. Spread the mixture evenly over the apples using the back of a damp tablespoon.



Spread the flaked almonds over the top. Bake for 1 hour at 180 Fan / Gas 5 / 3375F . Cover lightly with foil and/or turn down oven if the flaked almonds are getting too brown.

### WI

Our next meeting will be on Tue 11 Oct at 7.30pm in the Church Hall. Please come and join us, when John Pane will test *Our Knowledge of Oxfordshire*! We will then compare our answers over a cup of tea.

### Coffee Pot

Coffee Pot will be held on Mon 17 Oct from 10.30am to 12 noon. We welcome all who would like to meet more people. Please contact Eileen Palayiwa on 01865 725423 or [eileenpalayiwa@yahoo.com](mailto:eileenpalayiwa@yahoo.com) for details.

### Lunch Club

This month's Lunch Club will be held on Fri 28 Oct at 12.30pm. Suggested donation of £3 as usual. Please book through the Parish Office on 01865 580354.

### Old Marston Library

New volunteers are always welcome to keep our library fully open: what could be more worthwhile than helping to encourage literacy? Please email [janlawrie@btinternet.com](mailto:janlawrie@btinternet.com) if you'd like to help.

### A new Teabooks group – volunteer leader needed!

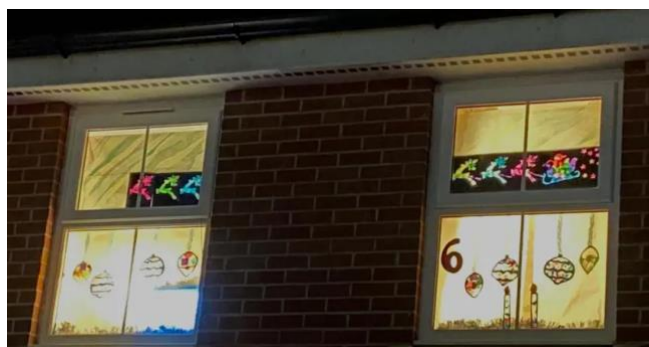
TeaBooks is a project run by Age UK Oxfordshire, organising book groups for the over 60s. If you have 3 hours to spare each month to be a volunteer group leader for a new group in Old Marston, please email [teabooks@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:teabooks@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk). More info via: <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire/our-services/teabooks/>





## Advent window calendar December 2022

In the last few years St Nicholas church has organised a Living Advent Calendar. Each evening in Advent (1-24 December), one house in the parish will decorate a



window with a Christmas theme. At a set time we have a very short ceremony where people gather at the house and the window is revealed. The windows are left decorated until at least Christmas Day and people can follow the Advent Calendar trail looking at all the beautiful windows. If you would like to take part and decorate a window, please contact Judith on (01865) 764693 before 15 Oct. Thank you.

## A performance of Brahms' German Requiem

...will be given by Oxford Pro Musica Singers, led by their conductor Mark Jordan, on Sat 22 Oct at 7.30pm at St Barnabas Church, Jericho, Cardigan Street, Oxford OX2 6BG. Tickets (£12) are available <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/oxfordpromusica/>

## Theatre Trip to North Wall, Oxford on 5 Jan at 2pm

We are planning a church theatre trip to see Creation Theatre's production of *The Tale of the Beauty and the Tail of the Beast*. Obviously we need to book quickly, so if you would like to come along please could you let Judith, Jan or Skye know by 16 Oct.

## The Oxford Half through Marston village on 16 Oct

Limelight sports say that access from Oxford Road into Old Marston is maintained in both directions 8-9.30am and from 12.15 onwards.

**REPAIR CAFE**

**Saturday 15th October 2022**  
**14.00 - 17.00**  
**St Nicholas Church Hall**  
**Elsfield Road**  
**MARSTON**  
**Oxford; OX3 0PR**

15.10.22 is International Repair Day!  
Any items in need of repair: e.g. bikes  
clothes needing sewing, knives  
sharpening, electrical items needing  
fixing?  
Team of volunteers will help & show  
you how to fix them.  
Book a place using QR code  
FREE! donations welcome! Tea &  
cake too!

SHARE OXFORD & MARSTON ECO GROUP

USE THIS EVENTBRITE CODE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK

Also, visit the Refill Station, at the Marston Eco Hub: celebrating its 2nd anniversary!

## Old Marston Parish Council report

At the September meeting, the PC had no objections to planning applications submitted by 20 Nicholas Avenue and the Red Lion Pub. Applications from 21 Haynes Road and 19 Arlington Drive were called in. Oxford City Council informed the PC that planning applications at St Nicholas Mobile Home Park and 36 Cavendish Drive had been approved while that of 76 Cherwell Drive had been withdrawn.

Celebrations to mark 60 years of Mortimer Hall and Old Marston Library were well attended by users past and present, with displays of pictures from the time of construction. The PC would like to thank all who helped with organising and setting up exhibits.

The PC has also adopted a logo for its website, social media and stationery. Thank you and congratulations to Matthew Turner who designed the logo, and won a £50 voucher for a venue of his choice.



Walls of the underpass under Marston Ferry Road have been cleaned and prepared by OCC, which will also fund a subsequent protective coating. The painting is being done by students from Meadowbrook College in years 1 to 11, funded by OMPC. A big thank you to all those involved in creating this wonderful artwork.

The PC is introducing a 'Thank You' award. This is to acknowledge the important role of local parishioners who, over time, have acted in the best interest of the parish by their good deeds, energy and enthusiasm.

There have been several incidences of antisocial and criminal behaviour within the parish. A flier will be delivered to every household in the parish making people aware of what to do if they witness or are subject to antisocial behaviour. The chairman and clerk met a member of the Oxfordshire Youth Service to consider different solutions.

October's meeting begins at 7pm on Mon 3 Oct.

The Clerk, Tim Cann, 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](mailto:clerk@oldmarston-pc.gov.uk) For information and agendas go to [www.oldmarston-pc.gov.uk](http://www.oldmarston-pc.gov.uk), Facebook or Twitter

## Exploring Faith and Communion - from 7 Oct

If you are thinking about confirmation or would like to receive communion, there is a course for children (9+) and young people starting on Fri 7 Oct 7-8pm at the Vicarage. For adults there will be an online course to explore Confirmation and Faith, also starting Fri 7 Oct between 8 pm and 9 pm. In either case, let Skye know if you would like to know more or attend. Courses will either be fortnightly or monthly on Fridays and you are very welcome to come along and see how you feel, with no obligation to get confirmed.

## The marvellous Meadowbank Mural

September 2022: The weather cooled down, school re-started – and those who travel through the underpass next to St Nicholas School were thrilled to see the murky half of the underpass be whitewashed and then burst into an energetic, fizzing, fast and furious, bright and cheerful pzazz of flowery, zappy colour.

The pupils of Meadowbrook College were asked by Old Marston Parish Council to design and paint a mural. Started by last year's post-GCSE art & photography students, the design uses the seven colours of the rainbow, plus sharp black and white. It combines the rainbow theme with dripping and symbols. The students have looked at the work of Hattie Stewart, a young British doodle artist (take a look at her website and Doodlebomb Sticker Book if you want to know more) and brought their knowledge of tattoo art to bear.

The work has been co-ordinated by the College's Art Teacher Jinny Mills and Creative Art Lead Sam Ridgley. It is being executed by many from the student body, from Y1 and Y2 children up to Year 11; by those taking an Art & Photography GCSE and those not. 'We wanted creating the mural to be accessible to all and for all to feel successful', said Jinny Mills.

The project being properly funded by the council and well received by the public has been a massive boost for the students of Meadowbrook; feeling valued in the community. The process has been a positive experience for work experience, coursework and self-esteem.





## Prayer Breakfast

**Saturday 15th October**  
**8-9:30am in the Parish Hall**

Sign up in church or email Skye - [vicar@stnicholasmarston.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stnicholasmarston.org.uk)

## Choral Evensong

With the Combined Choirs of Holy Trinity and St Nicholas



Holy Trinity, Headington Quarry



*All welcome to join us for these contemplative renewing services with well-loved words and worshipful music*

St Nicholas, Old Marston



Time: 6pm

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2022**

(at Headington Quarry)

Preacher: Rev Skye Denno

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

(at Old Marston)

Preacher: Rev Laura Biron-Scott

For more information email:

[music@hthq.uk](mailto:music@hthq.uk)

[musicdirector@stnicholasmarston.org.uk](mailto:musicdirector@stnicholasmarston.org.uk)

## Blessing boxes



In partnership with St Nicholas' Primary School



We need A4 gift bags which we will fill with new and unopened 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 and individuals.

Supported by the Old Marston Charity Trust

If you would like to receive a box/bag contact Skye - [vicar@stnicholasmarston.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stnicholasmarston.org.uk)

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





#### Crime & anti-social behaviour

If you witness or are subject to either you should:

Ring 999 if it is an emergency

Ring 101 if it is not

Report it online <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/>

Text 18000 or 999 (if you are pre-registered to do so)

You are encouraged to report any incident to Oxford City Council's community safety team by via 01865 249811 or [saferoxford@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:saferoxford@oxford.gov.uk)

In addition to any reports to the police, please also report any incidents to the community safety team. Reporting incidents to the police and the city council will allow them to target resources appropriately.

#### BENEFICE OF MARSTON & ELSFIELD

**Sunday 30th October 6pm  
at St Nicholas, Marston**

**Wednesday 2nd November 6:30pm  
at St Thomas, Elsfield.**

#### ALL SOULS

COME AND  
LIGHT A  
CANDLE  
FOR YOUR  
LOVED  
ONE

#### MEMORIAL SERVICES



Messy Church at St Nicholas, Marston  
Church Hall, Elsfield Road, 10 - 11.30am

Sundays - Autumn 2022

4<sup>th</sup> September

2<sup>nd</sup> October

13<sup>th</sup> November

11<sup>th</sup> December

Crafts, Bible Stories, Singing,

Prayer, Breakfast

All ages welcome

(children need to bring an adult with them)







The  
**Wildlife**  
Trusts



**CRAFTS  
& GAMES**

# AUTUMN FUN DAY

**SATURDAY 22nd Oct**

**10am - 1pm**

**HOT DOGS  
&  
Fire pit**

**PUMPKIN  
CARVING**

**At Marston Eco Hub & Parish Hall**  
Elsfield Road, OX3 0PR

**FREE COMMUNITY EVENT**

**St. Nicholas  
Marston**

## 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 .....musicdirector@stnicholasmarston.org.uk

### 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:

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

### Library (next to Mortimer Hall) opening hours

Tuesday 2pm to 5pm 5.30 to 7pm  
Thursday 2pm to 5pm 5.30 to 7pm  
Friday 10am to 12noon 2 to 5pm  
Saturday 9.30am to 12.30pm .....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  
Alistair Morris, 55 Arlington Drive, Oxford OX3 OSJ .....07804 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 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

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 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 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: .....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 OSH .....enquiries@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 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.dlhancok.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 ORX .....01865 241632

### 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

