

September is a reflective time for me. When I see school uniforms and stationery in the shops I am reminded of the first day back at school after the summer holidays. Starting a new school or uni year always involved a mixture of excitement and nerves. I



wondered how it would be and if I would make new friends. I wasn't particularly good at the academic stuff but I rather liked the social aspect of it. September still holds that nostalgic

magic - excitement with nerves, but also a season that brings with it a new set of challenges as we look to Autumn and face the winter months beyond.

The excitement of September is that of a new academic year - a new season of fresh possibilities and opportunities. Are you starting a new year at school, a new course, a new friendship or relationship, a new hobby or a new group? Nerves are always present because of the unknown: will I be successful; will I do well; will I be liked; will I belong?

Nerves are also prevalent in our current circumstances, both within our community and society as a whole. This is partly due to the monthly cost of living increase and concerns about climate crisis. Most of us don't really want to look too far ahead and focus instead on functioning in the present. The future may not be bright and cheery; it is unpredictable and looks scary. But what can we do? Perhaps individually we are limited, but together we can be the change we want to see happen.



Let's face it, we still want to believe September can be a month of fresh possibilities and new opportunities! I believe our future can be made better. This is a time to work together, despite our differences. We have Harvest coming up, which is the time when we give thanks for our beautiful earth, to the Creator and all those who play a role in bringing us the food we eat. It's a time when we make a conscious effort to share what we have, whether that is a lot or little. We are in between the Celtic festivals of Lammas (traditionally the time when the church blessed its first loaf) and Autumn Equinox which marks the journey of creation turning inwards, a time of contemplation and rest. Now is the time we celebrate our hopes, plans and

coming labours together. Here in Marston we have many great groups to join: Marston Community gardeners, Marston Wombles, the Giving Garage and



the Court Farm Allotments are just a few that will get you meeting new people and your hands in the soil. At the Giving Garage we have a Community Larder, called Loaves and

Fishes, where we can give and take equally with one another. On 15 Oct (International Repair Day) we have our first Marston Repair Cafe with Share Oxford at the Church Hall (OX3 OPR) between 2-5pm, organised by Annie Lloyd. How great is that!?



Here at St Nicholas church we are an open community church that welcomes all. Our worship services and social events are as friendly and varied as the people who attend them. Do look at our website and know you are very welcome. But if that's not the direction of your new

beginning this September, I pray that the excitement of this month takes you by surprise and offers you fresh and new opportunities.

Much love and God's blessings to you all, Skye

BENEFICE OF MARSTON & ELSFIELD



Welcome to St Nicholas and St Thomas - All our services are OPEN to everyone.

Further details can be found on our website -

stnicholasmarston.org.uk Or call Alison on 01865 580354.

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

Sunday 4th September

9am Short Taize Communion Service at St Nicholas Church.

The service is LIVE streamed onto YouTube.

10am MESSY CHURCH in the Church Hall

10:30am <u>Green Church</u>. *Potato Digging*. 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 11th September

8am BCP Communion Service at St Nicholas Church

10am Holy Communion at St Nicholas Church.

The service is LIVE streamed onto YouTube.

Thursday 15th at 6:30pm - An Hour of Silent Prayer

Sunday 18th September

8am BCP Communion Service at St Nicholas Church.

The service is LIVE streamed onto YouTube.

10am HARVEST FESTIVAL and the Licensing of Andy Gosler as Associate Priest to the Benefice at St Thomas Church.

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

Sunday 25th September

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.

What to quote in September?

Harvest by John Charles McNeill
Cows in the stall and sheep in the fold;
Clouds in the west, deep crimson and gold;
A heron's far flight to a roost somewhere;
The twitter of killdees keen in the air;
The noise of a wagon that jolts through the gloam
On the last load home.

There are lights in the windows; a blue spire of smoke Climbs from the grange grove of elm and oak. The smell of the Earth, where the night pours to her Its dewy libation, is sweeter than myrrh, And an incense to Toil is the smell of the loam On the last load home.

Nature notes: What to see in September?

Change is in the air this month with morning mists and the Autumn equinox on 23 Sept. Look for swallows gathered on overhead wires ahead of their long journey to Africa. Jays, normally secretive birds,



appear to gather acorns to eat during the winter. Their Latin name translates roughly as chattering acorn gatherer. You can still spot butterflies on warm days, including comma and speckled wood, often seen in hedgerows. If you have a

garden, try to avoid the temptation to cut off the seed heads of plants. They will provide a winter habitat for insects and food for seed-eating birds, such as goldfinches. At nighttime listen out for barking muntjac deer.

What to cook? Blackberry Summer Pudding Ingredients

Enough blackberries and/or other soft fruit to fill to the brim the size of basin you wish to make Juice and grated rind of an orange (or less if you are only making a small pudding)

1 scant tbsp of granulated sugar per pint of fruit, depending on taste

1 packet of brioche buns or 1 brioche sliced loaf **Method**

Put blackberries, sugar & orange juice into a saucepan and heat and stir gently until the sugar is dissolved and the fruit reaches boiling point. Cook for a few minutes. Set aside to cool. Rinse round the pudding basin with cold water: this will help remove the pudding. Line the sides and bottom of the basin with brioche. If you are using buns, slice them longwise about ½" or 1.3 cm thick. Cut the pieces to fit and push them together so you don't leave gaps. Save some for the top. Using a slotted spoon, put the cooked fruit into the lined basin and top up with some of the juice you have left. Make a top from the brioche and put it on.



Place a snugly fitting plate over the top and weigh it down with weights, tins or anything heavy. When cool, place pudding in the fridge preferably overnight but for at least two

hours. Invert onto a plate to serve and pour over any remaining juice. Serve with cream or yoghurt.

WI

Our next meeting will be on Tue 13 Sept at 7.30pm in the Church Hall The speaker will be Jane Dickinson who will give a talk on Women in Oxford. Please come and join us for an enjoyable evening

Coffee Pot

Coffee Pot will be held on Mon 19 Sept 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 for details.

Lunch Club

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

Harvest Festival in Marston



St Nicholas Harvest Festival will be on 9 Oct and our amazing team of flower arrangers will be decorating the church, together with displays by parishioners celebrating the 900th anniversary of St Nicholas church in Marston. We would be grateful for donations of fruit, flowers or vegetables that we can use for display. Please bring them to the church on the morning of Sat 8 Oct.

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 if you'd like to help.

Pam Lucas' Memorial Service

Pam's memorial service will take place at 2.30pm on Sat 3 Sept. All parishioners are warmly invited to attend.

Advertising in the Marston Times

If you would like to advertise your business in this magazine, please contact Geoff Hale for more information: treasurer@stnicholasmarston.org.uk

Peter Sargeant

Peter Sargeant, who lived and worked in Oxford for most of his life has died aged 90; his funeral took place earlier this summer in St Nicholas Church. He was an active figure in the Old Marston community, serving on the PCC, the Marston Charities Trust and as churchwarden for over 20 years. He also ran Old



Marston Youth Club with his friend, the late Peter Sheppard. With his wife Hazel he fostered orphaned Chinese girls from Hong Kong, later creating a bridge between St. Nicholas Church and Divya Shanthi in Bangalore. Peter had many interests over the years

– gardening; birdwatching; oil-painting; cycling; cooking, football: he was a life-long fan of Oxford Utd and Chelsea; going to the theatre, holidaying and travelling. A particular passion was Bowls, which he played until his late 80s, serving as secretary and treasurer for Summertown and Headington Bowls Clubs. Peter was a very caring and warm-hearted man, touching many people's lives through his association with the church, sports and community groups in Oxford and Old Marston.

Compassionate Mindfulness

6-week Mindfulness course at St Thomas' Church, Elsfield: Saturdays 10.30am to 11.30am: 10, 17, 24 Sept and 15, 22, 29 Oct.

Mindfulness is our ability to live in the present moment, fully aware of thoughts, emotions and actions. By practising mindfulness exercises, you can use it in everyday life but it is important to deepen compassion at the same time. This 6 week course will take you through different exercises for developing mindfulness. There will be handouts to assist practice between sessions. Ginny Ross is a member of the Third Order of the Society of St Francis (TSSF), training as a physicist before becoming a dyslexia consultant. She was taught mindfulness in early 1980s; Christianity is the bedrock of her life and her journey has been enriched by studying with people of other faiths and spiritual disciplines. Cost £20 for 6 weeks. Please email justinemccool@fastmail.com for details.

St Nicholas' PS' Community Scarecrow Festival

We are delighted to announce the return of the Scarecrow Festival over the weekend of 24/25 Sept, this year with the theme of heroes and villains. If your family would like to create a scarecrow or you know of a local community group who would like to take part, please use this entry form. Scarecrow trail maps will be on sale from mid-September (for £1 each) from the school office and Costcutter in Marston. Last year, we struggled to source straw: if anyone has any local contact, please do let Laura know. Laura and the

Friends of St Nicholas' School team laura.wilkinson@hotmail.co.uk

The Henry Minn collection of photographs of Oxford In the 1980s I catalogued the Minn collection of photographs of Oxford, held in the Bodleian Library.



Now the Oxford History Centre, has digitised over 3000 photographs and the set is now available online for the first time, free to view by all. Henry Minn (1860-

1961) was born in Oxford, son of a watch/clockmaker. He developed a great interest in photography and recorded buildings and locations before dramatic



urban redevelopments changed their face forever. His photographs of Oxford (1890s-1950s) are especially important as he included poorer districts, generally ignored by other photographers. Minn photographed Wood Eaton and St. Clement's, but sadly nothing here. The Picture Oxon website contains several collections of historic photographs, notably that of the famous Oxford photographer, Henry Taunt (1842-1922). It is easily searched and images are often zoomable.

https://www.pictureoxon.com https://www.oxfordshirehistory.org.uk

Divya Shanthi Messy Church

We're having a special Messy Church service about Divya Shanthi on Sun 4 Sept 10am - 11.30am in the Church Hall. There'll be songs, prayers, cake, photos and news from Divya Shanthi. We'd love to see you there! Our Marston-based charity Divya Shanthi Mission Support (DSMS) is celebrating 20 years of helping fund Divya Shanthi's work in Bangalore, India, where they help very poor families and care for abandoned children. You can find out more about DSMS and what Divya Shanthi does at dsms.org.uk and facebook.com/DSMScharity.

The Parish Council

..does not meet in August: its next meeting will be on Mon 5 Sept. 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 For information, agendas and so on, go to www.oldmarston-pc.gov.uk, Facebook or Twitter

Singing at St Nicholas Church Adult Choir

The positive benefits of singing and making music have been well documented. At St Nicholas church we have a wonderful group of adult singers of all ages who enjoy meeting together each Thursday at 6.30pm at St Nic's to prepare music for both church services and different community events. There is no audition to join or a need to attend all the events at which we are singing. We sing a wide variety of styles and are a very friendly and welcoming group. Please do give us a try. Our rehearsals start again on Thur 8 Sept.

Junior Choir (7-11 years old)

Please see our poster about our Open Evening on Fri 16 Sept 6pm - 6.45pm for prospective choristers and their parents/carers to find out all about the choir, the musical training opportunities and the different singing events planned. If you know of any young singers who might be interested, please let them know and invite them along.

Youth Singers (11-18 years old)

This is a more informal group of singers that get together to assist at different events and services. For more information about any of our choirs of any aspect of our music making please contact Neil Barker musicdirector@stnicholas.org.uk





Mortimer Hall & Library Open Day

The Mortimer Hall and Old Marston Library will be celebrating their 60th anniversary this year. They both officially opened on Thu 6 Sept 1962. To celebrate, there will be an open day on Sat 3 Sept from 10am to 1pm. You will be able to drop in and see pictures and documents from over the years. In addition, you will be able to find out about other organisations in Old Marston and some of the activities held in the Hall and Library. There will be refreshments and cake. All are welcome.

Save the dates!



Sun 11 Sept & 9 Oct 10.30am - 1pm

Work Party at Marston Forest Garden, Court Farm Sun 11 Sept & 9 Oct 2.30pm

Northway Wombles at Northway CC – all welcome! Sun 25 Sept & 30 Oct 2-5pm

Marston Community Allotments, Court Farm Mon 26 Sept 6.30 – 9.30pm at The Red Lion

Fund-raising dinner prepared with produce grown within a two-mile radius – come and support us! hello@marstoncommunitygardening.org.uk for info.

Wonderful Wombling (litter-picking)

We now have TWO groups of Wombles: **Marston Wombles**, based at New Marston Recreation Ground and **Northway Wombles**, based at Northway
Community Centre and Park. Just get in touch to join one of these litter-picking groups

(marstonecogroup@gmail.com or northwaytogether@gmail.com) – or follow us on Facebook @MarstonEcoGroup. It's only an hour or two per month – but feels really helpful.







Marston Community Gardening & Marston Eco Group

Hen help needed at Court Farm Allotment Coop Co-op

Do you have a caring and curious nature? Would you like to get fresh free-range eggs and be involved in the Coop Co-op? Please



do get in touch. We need more help to cover shifts and help out with cleaning, feeding and watering the hens.

Bike Doctor – We are recruiting!

Do you know anyone who is a whiz with bike repairs and a few spare days per month? We have a vacancy for our volunteer bike doctor at the Giving Garage/ Eco Hub, Old Marston – one day per month. They would charge for the service and parts, and Marston Community Gardening will cover any extra costs for those customers who can't pay.



A welcoming Youth Group for 11+
2nd & 4th Sats 7-9pm
If you want to know more contact
Skye: joskso@yahoo.co.uk



Pause for prayer 2022



Throughout the year there have

been times for us to meet with others to pray.

Here are the remaining dates...

September Thurs 15th - 6:30-7:30pm at St Nicholas

- An hour of silent prayer

October Sat 15th - 8-9:30am Breakfast Prayer in the

Church hall

Please let our administrator know in advance if you would like to attend so catering can be done - 01965580354 or email administrator @stnicholas-marston.org.uk

N ovember Wed 9th - 7:30-9pm. Guided Prayer at St N icholas.

Reflective prayer with music & poems ending with Compline at 9pm

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

Please let our administrator know in advance if you would like to attend - 01865580354 or email administrator@stnicholasmarston.org.uk

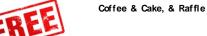


At Church Hall & Eco Hub (OX3 0 PR)

Sat 22 nd Oct

10-1pm

Bread Making, Pumpkin Carving, Story Telling, !
Face Painting, Fire Pit & Marshmallows, Crafts &
Activities, Toffee Apples, Harvest Mice Hunt &
Harvest Stations in the church,





HOLY GROUND

Gatherings to mark the CELTIC YEAR

Prayers and Reflections are from David Cole's book 'The Celtic Year'



Always starting at 6:30pm
2nd of November 2021 - Winter Season
21st of December 2021 - Winter Solstice
1st of February 2022 - Spring Season
21st of March 2022 - Spring Equinox
1st of May 2022 - Summer Season
21st of June 2022 - Summer Solstice
1st of August 2022 - Autumn Season
21st of September 2022 - Autumn Equinox

Meet around a fire pit outside Marston Eco Hub OX3 0PR Bring something to share, a chair and a blanket if it's cold. ALLARE WELCOME

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 Mitchell
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 weekAdult volunteers as well as girls welcomed! District Commissioner, Lesley Dentry,
Leisure: OXSRAD Sports and Leisure Centre,
Court Place Farm, Marsh Lane01865 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
Marston Community Gardening
Alistair Morris 01865 724081
Kate Robinson
Marston Saints Football Club John Pagewww.msfc.org.uk
John Page
Oxford City Council (Marston Representatives) Mary Clarkson, 8 Dunstan Road, Oxford OX3 9BY01865 751493
Alistair Morris, 55 Arlington Drive, Oxford OX3 OSJ07804 847285
Oxfordshire County Council (Marston Representative) Mark Lygo
Oxford Preservation Trust, Marston Area
Lucy Hughes, Cross Farm01865 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 School
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 Phillips
Alison Gray, Parish Office01865 580354
Women's Institute Meetings at 7.30 second Tue of each month - new members welcome!
President, Sue Hawes
555.560 y

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 Road
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:
12 Arlington Dr, Marston OX3 0SHenquiries@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
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 9EDwww.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
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
Fodoration of Master Window Clamper 01965 777990 07997 515169



Federation of Master Window Cleaners... 01865 777889, 07887 515168