

St Nicholas, Marston and St Thomas of Canterbury, Elsfield

MARSTON TIMES

November 2022 stnicholasmarston.org.uk Donations welcome

"No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds! — November!" Thomas Hood

November is seen as the bleakest month of the year. Thomas Hood evokes the cold and discomfort. His fellow poet John Clare thinks of the fog: *"The landscape sleeps in mist from morn till noon."* November makes Hardy and Housman consider



death and oblivion; it reminds Walter de la Mare of lost loves; and the more prosaic Royal Horticultural Society predicts "frost, gales and freezing rain" for the

gardener.

In November we start to see winter viruses taking hold; we struggle with travelling in ice or fog and this year there is the added worry of the cost of heating and preparing hot food for many people. The solemnity of Remembrance Sunday comes with echoes of suffering and carnage alongside the bravery and self-sacrifice. November is a month of endings, especially in church, where we come to the end of one liturgical year before the anticipation of Advent which begins the next.

To add to all this, as the days get shorter and daylight saving brings darkness at tea-time, around 2 billion of us suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder: depression and tiredness related to the lack of light. So where are the gleams of brightness breaking through the November fog?

There is still beauty out of doors, though we have to look harder for it, perhaps with a photographer's eye. November in the next Countryfile calendar pictures a runner by a bare, wind-bent tree, its branches etched



against a grey sky. It reminds me that when I look up,

I love the shapes of the bare branches once the leaves have fallen. In gardens, the pink flash of a nerine, or the winter warmth of chrysanthemums seem all the more striking against a backdrop of browns and greys. Robins and goldfinches still brighten our mornings.



Remembrance Day reminds us how much individual lives matter, especially when we read out the names on the war memorial. I recall how my grandmother, many years after World War 1, was moved to see her brother's name in the Book of Remembrance. In spite of all

the general horror of war, we can think of each person as someone who mattered, who was loved by family and friends and by God.

In the cold dark days, warmth (especially an open fire) and social events become more special. On Tuesday, 1 November, we can meet around the firepit outside the vicarage and eco-hub to celebrate the oncoming winter season. If you prefer your warmth indoors, our new Wednesday Welcome begins on 2 November in the Church Hall from 3.30-5.30: a heated space, tea, cake and activities for those who want them. Everyone is welcome. Later in the month, the 4pm service, with refreshments in the Hall, on 20 November offers a chance to think about renewal.

The Psalmists also think about renewal and amongst the beautiful images in Psalm 42 is a refrain that is particularly appropriate if we are sunk in November gloom:

Why, my soul, are you downcast?

Why so disturbed within me?

Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Saviour and my God.



Gill Hale

BENEFICE OF MARSTON & ELSFIELD



Welcome to St Nicholas and St Thomas.
Further details can be found on our website
- stnicholasmarston.org.uk
Or call the office on 01865 580354.

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

Sunday 6th

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

10:30am Green Church. *Bulb planting*. 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 13th - REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

8am BCP Communion Service at St Nicholas Church

9:45am Holy Communion Service at St Nicholas Church with the Jr and adult choir.
The service is **LIVE streamed straight onto YouTube**

10am Messy Church in the Parish Hall

11am Parish Act of Remembrance by the War Memorial (Gather 10:50am)

Sunday 20th - Christ the King

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

10am Matins at St Thomas in Elsfield

The 4pm - Informal service in the hall with cakes and coffee

6pm Annual *Scouts Service* at St Nicholas Church.

Sunday 27th - ADVENT & Stewardship Sunday

8am BCP Communion Service at St Nicholas Church.

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

ALL ARE WELCOME!

What to quote in November?

Sonnet XVI: November by Hartley Coleridge

The mellow year is hasting to its close:
The little birds have almost sung their last,
Their small notes twitter in the dreary blast —
That shrill-piped harbinger of early snows;
The patient beauty of the scentless rose,
Oft with the Morn's hoar crystal quaintly glass'd,
Hangs a pale mourner for the summer past,
And makes a little summer where it grows;
In the chill sunbeam of the faint brief day
The dusky waters shudder as they shine;
The russet leaves obstruct the straggling way
Of oozy brooks, which no deep banks define,
And the gaunt woods, in ragged, scant array,
Wrap their old limbs with sombre ivy twine.

Nature notes: What to see in November?

November is a good month for spotting birds with the trees mostly bare. Robins are particularly easy to see. There will be one establishing his territory through



song close to where you live and keen to defend it when the breeding seasons

starts. Winter thrushes arrive in droves this month, eager to feast on berries or invertebrates on open ground. Hedgehogs will be looking for a place to hibernate so if you have a garden, reserve piles of leaves for them to snuggle into. Birds and mammals still need fresh water (and food) so don't forget to replenish empty bird feeders and water bowls.

What to cook?

Rocky Road Treat bars

Ingredients

200g digestive biscuits
135g butter
200g chocolate broken into smaller pieces
2-3 tbsp golden syrup
100g mini marshmallows
50g raisins
50g frozen dark chocolate chips
50g Rice Krispies

Method

Grease and line an 18cm square brownie tin with baking paper. Put the biscuits into a plastic bag and break them into smaller pieces by rolling with a rolling pin. Place the butter, dark chocolate and golden syrup in a bowl over a large saucepan of boiling water and stir until chocolate has melted.

Stir and set aside to cool. In a separate bowl mix together the marshmallows, raisins and Rice Krispies. Stir the biscuits, and $\frac{2}{3}$ of the marshmallow mix into the chocolate mixture until everything is combined. Then stir in the chocolate chips. Tip the mixture into the lined baking tin and spread it out to the corners. Sprinkle the remaining marshmallow mix evenly over



the top. Place in the refrigerator and chill for at least 2 hrs. Use a sharp knife run under hot water to cut into 12 portions.

WI

Please come and join us on Tue 8 Nov at 7.30pm in the Church Hall when our Speaker, Liz Wooley, will be returning to give us a talk about *the Victorian and Edwardian Development in East Oxford*. Find out more of the history of Oxford! A cup of tea and biscuits will be provided.

Coffee Pot

Coffee Pot will be held on Mon 21 Nov 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 25 Nov at 12.30pm. Suggested donation of £3 as usual. Please book through the Parish Office on 01865 580354.

NEXT Pause for Thought...

**Thursday 24th November
at 7:30pm**

**Old Marston During the
English Civil War**
with
Colonel Nicolas Lipscombe

40 minute talk followed by coffee and cake
ALL ARE WELCOME



Advent window calendar December 2022

We were still a long way short of having enough windows for the Advent Calendar, so have decided that we cannot run it this year. It may be that it will return next year, but we don't think we can do it in 2022. Thank you all who volunteered for this year and for past years.

Wednesday Welcome 3-5.30pm Church Hall - Free

On 2 Nov we are starting a weekly drop in session at the Church Hall on Elsfield Road from 3-5.30pm.

We are offering a warm welcome with hot drinks and snacks. You might like to drop in on your way home from school or coming back from the shops. (Children do need to bring an adult with them). We shall have board games, magazines, homework space and information about other local groups. There will be time to browse a magazine, enjoy a craft or board game, catch up on your homework.

No need to book - just pop in. We hope to see you there.

We plan to operate from November to March. If you'd like more information, please contact Jane Burd janeburd0@gmail.com or speak to Gill Hale or Eileen Palayiwa.



Old Marston Parish Council report

At the October PC meeting the council looked at a planning application from 78 Oxford Road to which it had no objection. There was also an application from land to the rear of 1 Cromwell Close which it asked to be called in. Oxford City Council informed the PC that 21A Oxford Road has been approved. The developments at Hill View Farm and Almonds Farm have gone to judicial review.

Moore, the external auditor for Oxfordshire's parish councils, has signed off the PC's accounts for 2021/22 noting no irregularities and the final document will be posted on the council's website shortly.

There has been a great deal of positive reaction to artwork on the walls leading to the underpass. The PC initiated the project and paid for the paint, whilst county highways funded the repair, preparation and protective coating. Staff and pupils of Meadowbrook College created the designs and painted the walls themselves – a big thank you to them for their hard work and amazing contribution to the community.

The agreement between Old Marston Mill Lane Allotments Association and the PC has been renewed for a further 25 years. This gives the allotments and the association security until 2053. The PC would like to take this opportunity to thank OMMLAA's committee and allotment holders for all the hard work and commitment they put in to run the site. We all appreciate the importance that green spaces and gardening have in helping with people's mental wellbeing and in providing fresh, healthy food.

The PC's firework evening will be on Sat 5 Nov at the Red Lion pub, starting at 8.30pm. This is a free event open to the whole community with fireworks provided by the PC.

The next OXCLEAN litter pick will be on Sat 4 Mar 2023: a reminder will be posted on the noticeboard and website nearer the time. Please do join us as we would love to see you and your hard work will be making a difference to our community.

The next meeting begins at 7pm on Mon 7 Nov.

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 and agendas go to www.oldmarston-pc.gov.uk, Facebook or Twitter



Confirmation and Faith Exploring Courses

WHO IS GOD? WHAT IS CHURCH?

WHAT'S MY FAITH ABOUT?

Fridays 7-8pm at the Vicarage for 9-18yrs

8-9pm on Zoom (Meeting ID: 879 4461 5840. Passcode: FAITH) for 18+

Week 1: 7th October 2022

GOD

How do we know God?
What Kind of God do we believe in?
But what about Suffering

Week 2: 4th November 2022

HUMAN NATURE & SIN

A beautiful world often spoiled
What is sin?

Week 3: 2nd December 2022

JESUS

Who was Jesus?
Jesus a window into God?
Jesus' death and resurrection

BREAK for CHRISTMAS

Week 4: 6th January 2023

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Christianity: a supernatural religion
The power to change?

Week 5: 20th January 2023

THE CHURCH

A worldwide community
The Body of Christ
The Creeds & The Christian Calendar

Week 6: 3rd February 2023

THE BIBLE

A Dangerous Book
How to use the Bible in our lives
The Bible in prayer and church services

AVOIDING HALF-TERM

Week 7: 24th February 2023

LIVING AS A CHRISTIAN

Repentance and Forgiveness
Prayer & Worship
Religious experience

Week 8: 3rd March 2023

BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION

What happens at Baptism?
Standing up for what you believe in
The meaning of Confirmation

Week 9: 17th March 2023

UNDERSTANDING HOLY COMMUNION

What is Holy Communion?
The Passover & The Last Supper
The theologies and liturgies of different churches

Week 10: 21st April 2023

SPACE FOR QUESTIONS

If interested in joining or would like to know more email Skye -
vicar@stnicholasmarston.org.uk or call her on 01865 202988



BENEFICE OF MARSTON & ELSFIELD

Sunday 30th October 6pm

at St Nicholas, Marston

Wednesday 2nd November 6:30pm

at St Thomas, Elsfield.



Renewing ...

...creation ...community ...church

Our Sunday themes on:

Sept 18th

Oct 16th

Nov 20th

**Come
and
join us for
a faith
and
community
event for
everyone**



The 4PM

**Sung Worship
Bible Reading & Discussion
Afternoon Tea Refreshments
TTT - This Time Tomorrow
Prayer**



**St Nicholas
Church Hall,
Marston Oxford
OX3 0PR**



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

Sundays - Autumn 2022

4th September

2nd October

13th November

11th December

Crafts, Bible Stories, Singing,
Prayer, Breakfast
All ages welcome
(children need to bring an adult with them)



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

1st of November 2022 - Winter Season
21st of December 2022 - Winter Solstice
1st of February 2023 - Spring Season
21st of March 2023 - Spring Equinox
1st of May 2023 - Summer Season
22nd of June 2023 - Summer Solstice
1st of August 2023 - Autumn Season
21st of September 2023 - 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.
ALL ARE WELCOME

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

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

PULSE
Oct 22nd
Nov 12th & 26th
Dec 10th

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



MULLED WINE | ROAST CHESTNUTS | GIFTS | CAKES | CRAFTS | TEA



TOMBOLA | CAROLS | REFILL STATION | GINGERBREAD | COFFEE | MUSIC

SATURDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2022
3-5PM

At the Marston Eco Hub, Marston Vicarage, Elsfield Road, Marston
In aid of Divya Shanthy, Bangalore, India



Remembrance Sunday

13th November



**We will
remember
them..**



9:45am - Inside

Service of Remembrance with
Holy Communion.

10:50am - Outside

Gather round the War memorial
for the ACT of Remembrance and
the laying of wreaths.



Elsfield Christmas Fair 2022

Saturday 26th November

10-12noon

At St Thomas Church in Elsfield

Gifts - Crafts - Raffle - Drink & Food



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 Drive.....01865 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 Barker.....musicdirector@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:

OXSRAID Sports and Leisure Centre,
Court Place Farm, Marsh Lane01865 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 12.30pm01865 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 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 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 week.....07818 236348

Royal British Legion Club Hall:

Steward01865 243991

Schools

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

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

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 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 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

Dog grooming in your own home by Tania (NVQ level3)

20 Harlow Way, Oxford OX3 OQS.....07877 183281

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 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.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

Home decluttering & organising by Tania.....07877 183281

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 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 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

**Copy deadline for December's print issue
is Thursday 17 November**