

St Nicholas, Marston and St Thomas of Canterbury, Elsfield

MARSTON TIMES

February 2023 stnicholasmarston.org.uk Donations welcome

Dear Friends,

February is the month of love. Or at least, that's what the shops tell us, with their ever-increasing range of Valentine's cards, roses and red hearts. Valentine's Day encourages us to think about the people we love but, with Ash Wednesday falling on 22 February, this month could also help us to think about the time we give to ourselves.

As I reflect on this month I ask myself: what do I love doing and do I give myself time to do it?

Of course, I love spending time with my family and I love my church ministry, but another - perhaps less obvious love - is caring for plants. Our home has become greener and greener over the past few years. Each plant has a name and a special memory attached



to it. As I write this article, the cactus on my windowsill has flowered - it's a bit early, but the colour pink is bright and cheery. All the plants I care for are different; some need a bit of

encouragement to bloom; some need more light or less sun; some are very particular about their spot in the house, but all of them need attention and, in return, bring me joy!

The extra TLC always seems worthwhile whenever there is new growth, or when a bud or flower stem emerges; it reminds me of the hope that is given to those who trust and wait. Spring is just around the corner and soon there will be a riot of colour around us, replacing the more muted winter



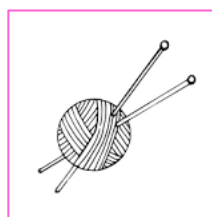
shades. My plants also remind me how much God cares for us and never gives up on us. The Divine Creator knows the potential within each of us and will patiently care for us until we are ready to bloom and grow.

Soon we shall be entering the season of Lent, which is a time of preparation for the Church. Traditionally it has been seen as a time of fasting or giving up something and for many people that is the right thing to do, but for me Lent is a time when I try to prepare, asking God what I should do during this new season. I often take something on rather than giving something up, like reading a Lent book, attending Compline (which will take place at Elsfield on Thursday evenings) or starting/continuing a hobby; dedicating more time to grow.

Perhaps, during this season, you can reflect on your self-care and mental well-being. Does this mean you need to start, restart or continue a



hobby that you often push to one side? Or do you need to develop a better balance? Lent can help us develop a healthier spiritual life and discipline. I know discipline is not a word everyone likes, but it can help us create a structure that we need, but which we struggle to maintain. For example, I am making sure I put a little more me-time in my diary.



Whether or not it is your practice to observe the season of Lent, my prayer for this season is that we will each have the time to stop and reflect. Perhaps think about how our lives may be unfurling and ready to bloom, like the flowers in my cacti or the buds in the garden waiting with great anticipation to flower.

Trust and wait and prepare.
With my love and prayers, Skye

BENEFICE OF MARSTON & ELSFIELD



Welcome to St Nicholas & 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 5th - 3rd Sunday before Lent

10am - Community Celebration Service with Holy Communion
with Jr choirs/choir & Worship band at St Nicholas Church.
The service is **LIVE** streamed straight onto YouTube

6pm - BCP Evensong

Sunday 12th - 2nd Sunday before Lent

8am BCP Communion Service at St Nicholas Church

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

10am Messy Church in the Parish Hall

Sunday 19th

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

10am Holy Communion at St Thomas in Elsfield

The 4pm at St Nicholas Church Hall.

22nd - ASH WEDNESDAY

9:30am Said Communion Service with Imposition of Ashes at St Nicholas Church

6:30pm Communion Service with Imposition of Ashes at St Nicholas Church

Sunday 26th - 1st Sunday of Lent

8am BCP Communion Service at St Nicholas Church

10am Holy Communion Service at St Nicholas Church *with Guest Speaker Ruth Wilde*
National co-ordinator for Inclusive Church
The service is **LIVE** streamed straight onto YouTube



St Nicholas Church has joined
Inclusive Church.

Inclusive Church is a network of
churches, groups and individuals
uniting together around a shared
vision 'We believe in inclusive
church – a church which
celebrates and affirms every
person and does not
discriminate'..

A Church For All

What to quote in February?

O Mistress Mine by William Shakespeare
(from Twelfth Night)

O Mistress mine where are you roaming?
O stay and hear, your true love's coming,
That can sing both high and low.
Trip no further pretty sweeting.
Journeys end in lovers' meeting,
Every wise man's son doth know.

What is love, 'tis not hereafter,
Present mirth, hath present laughter:
What's to come, is still unsure.
In delay there lies no plenty,
Then come kiss me sweet and twenty

Nature notes: What to see and hear in February?

Spring is round the corner with longer and occasional warmer days. Look out for early butterflies and queen bumblebees enticed out of hibernation by the sun. Birds are pairing up and looking at potential nesting sites – it's not too late to put up a bird box in your garden or local park (with permission). Early spring wild flowers appear including the wayside-dwelling starry yellow celandine and purple lesser periwinkle.



Listen out for great spotted woodpeckers drumming on tree trunks high up. They are establishing their breeding territory. You may hear two drumming male woodpeckers trying to outdo each other.

What to cook in February?

Apple and Marmalade Pudding (serves 6)

Ingredients

3 medium cooking apples peeled and chopped
(more if you prefer - you could use up to half in eating apples)

2 tbs marmalade

1 tbs light soft brown sugar (preferably muscovado)

Ingredients for the sponge topping

175g softened butter or margarine
plus extra for the dish

150g caster sugar

175g self-raising flour

3 eggs & grated rind of an orange

Method

Heat the oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6

Butter a 20 x 30cm rectangular baking dish (or another of equivalent size) and put in the apples mixed with



marmalade and brown sugar. In a separate bowl, cream the margarine and sugar together until pale, light and fluffy. Add the eggs a little at a time and beat until absorbed. Sift in the flour and salt, add orange rind and gently fold in until mixed. Alternatively, put all the ingredients into a food processor to mix. Spread the sponge mixture in an even layer over the apples. Bake until the sponge is golden brown and springs back into shape when gently pressed (about 40 minutes).

WI

Our next meeting will be on Tue 14 Feb at 7.30pm in the Church Hall. Come meet us and eat cake!

Coffee Pot

Coffee Pot will be held on Mon 20 Feb 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

Our next lunch will be on Fri 24 Feb.

Marston Times delivery person URGENTLY needed

We need somebody to deliver the Marston Times to Cumberlege Close & Bradlands. Printed issues of the MT appear quarterly (Mar, Jun, Sept & Dec). Deliverers collect copies from church when advised, then deliver them to all households in their patch. If you could volunteer for this, please let Colin Harris know at colinharris31@gmail.com. It provides a good opportunity for exercise and meeting people! The next printed issue will appear at the end of February.



St. Nicholas Marston

Messy Church at St Nicholas, Marston
Spring 2023 on the following Sundays

12th February
19th March
16th April

10 – 11.30am, Church Hall, Elsfield Road

Crafts, Bible Stories, Singing,
Prayer, Breakfast

All ages welcome
(children need to bring an adult with them)

FREE!

Messy CHURCH

Benefice of Marston & Elsfield

Ash Wednesday
Wednesday February 22nd - at St Nicholas

9:30am - Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes.
Quiet and reflective.

6:30pm - Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes.
Including Hymns.

All go to the same place; all come from dust, and to dust all return.
Ecclesiastes 3:20

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LENT in the Benefice

Marston & Elsfield

Compline (Evening Prayer)
returns at
St Thomas Church, Elsfield
on Thursdays at 8pm.

2nd March, 9th March,
16th March, 23rd March,
& 30th March

EVERYONE is welcome

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+

<p>Week 1: 7th October 2022 GOD</p> <p>How do we know God? What Kind of God do we believe in? But what about Suffering</p>	<p>Week 6: 3rd February 2023 THE BIBLE</p> <p>A Dangerous Book How to use the Bible in our lives The Bible in prayer and church services</p>
<p>Week 2: 4th November 2022 HUMAN NATURE & SIN</p> <p>A beautiful world often spoiled What is sin?</p>	<p>Week 7: 24th February 2023 LIVING AS A CHRISTIAN</p> <p>Repentance and Forgiveness Prayer & Worship Religious experience</p>
<p>Week 3: 2nd December 2022 JESUS</p> <p>Who was Jesus? Jesus a window into God? Jesus' death and resurrection</p>	<p>Week 8: 3rd March 2023 BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION</p> <p>What happens at Baptism? Standing up for what you believe in The meaning of Confirmation</p>
<p>Week 4: 6th January 2023 THE HOLY SPIRIT</p> <p>Christianity: a supernatural religion The power to change?</p>	<p>Week 9: 17th March 2023 UNDERSTANDING HOLY COMMUNION</p> <p>What is Holy Communion? The Passover & The Last Supper Theologies and liturgies of different churches</p>
<p>Week 5: 20th January 2023 THE CHURCH</p> <p>A worldwide community The Body of Christ The Creeds & The Christian Calendar</p>	<p>Week 10: 21st April 2023 SPACE FOR QUESTIONS</p>

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

St. Nicholas Marston



**Closing
Date - 27th
Feb**

*We are looking
for a Children & Youth
Minister to join the team.
Is this you?*

Loving God, Loving community

**Check our website for
more details**

Or Call Revd Skye - 01865 202988
This is a PT, 3 year post
£14,000 per annum

stnicholasmarston.org.uk

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northway
COMMUNITY CENTRE

**Oxfordshire
ageUK**

TeaBooks at Northway Community Centre

Do you enjoy reading?

Would you like to hear and share thoughts on books
within a small, friendly book group? Come along!

11.00 am – 12.00 noon

23rd January

27th February

27th March

24th April

TeaBooks is an Oxfordshire-wide project organising social book groups
for the over-60s, helping older people to share a love of books and reading
and to make new friends.

Only £1 per session, first session free.



Northway Community Centre
45 Dora Carr Close, Northway, Oxford, OX3 9RF

To learn more about TeaBooks, please get in touch:
teabooks@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk or 0345 450 1276
www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire/our-services/teabooks/

Age UK Oxfordshire registered charity number: 109529
Northway District Community Association registered charity number: 304344

AGE OF CREATIVITY

PULSE

11th & 25th Feb
11th & 25th
March

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

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



MARSTON COMMUNITY LARDER

Along with essential items there will be fresh produce (bread & veg, fruit etc) which will be left out in the SESI refill area over the weekend after the Giving Garage hours.



Marston Community Larder is supported by Old Marston Charity Trust

THE GIVING GARAGE

Marston Eco Hub - OX3 0PR

OPEN EVERY SATURDAY
9-11am

Pick up or drop off FREE plant pots, vases, mugs, wellies and other garden/ household items, and BORROW garden equipment (rakes & spades, ladders, strimmers, wheelbarrows, lawn mowers, leaf blowers, bike rack etc),

Further details email Skye: joskso@yahoo.co.uk or call 01865 202988

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)

Elsfield Wine Tasting Evening
(and inter-village competition)



Test your taste buds against textures, tannins and terroirs during an evening of fine wines, fun facts and quizzical questions. Light snacks and prizes will be provided.

On: Saturday 4th February 2023
At: Elsfield Village Room
Time: 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Tickets: £15 per head payable in advance.

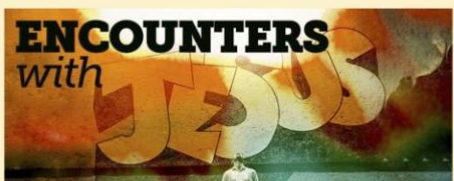
Please contact:
James Plunket – 07507 885169
Peter McCool – 01865 358578

Dementia Inclusive service

Join a Dementia Inclusive service on **Wed 8 Feb 2023** 2.30 - 4pm at Marston United Reformed Church, 352 Marston Road OX3 0JB. All welcome. This short Ecumenical service is for all those who are feeling lonely, have difficulties or would just enjoy companionship at a short service, followed by refreshments and activities. Family, friends and carers will be equally welcome. All facilities in the building are disabled friendly. For further information or offers of help please contact: Val Stolton on 01865 246157/07712 495406 or via valstolton@aol.com



The 4PM Service

Our Theme



When:
Sunday 19th February *Jesus and a Samaritan Woman*

Sung Worship – old and new
Bible Reading, Reflection & Discussion
TTT – This Time Tomorrow
Prayer
Refreshments

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

StNicholasMarston.org.uk

Old Marston Parish Council report

The January PC meeting had no concerns with planning applications from 4 Haynes Road, 142 Oxford Road and Court Place Farm (Marsh Lane). OCC informed the PC that an application from the Red Lion has been refused, while those from 19 Arlington Drive, 26 Cavendish Drive and 2 Lewell Avenue have been approved.

The PC is looking into activities available to elderly residents of the parish; results of the ensuing report will be publicised.

The PC has agreed to support the Debate Not Hate campaign, organised by the Local Government Association. Democracy thrives on good, frank discussion, which should never turn into personal abuse. Debating and disagreeing with one another is a healthy part of democracy, but abuse and intimidation are not. The PC will challenge any abuse against councillors and uphold standards of debate at its meetings. The vulnerability of elected representatives has been at the forefront in recent times: witness the murders of MPs Jo Cox and Sir David Amess. Anyone, regardless of their political affiliation, should feel safe to become a councillor and be proud to represent their community.

A revised calendar of meetings for PC and committee meetings in 2023 has been agreed. Full PC meetings remain scheduled for 6 Feb, 6 Mar, 3 Apr, 15 May, 5 June, 3 July, 4 Sep, 2 Oct, 6 Nov & 4 Dec at 7pm. Other committees meet on the last Monday of each month at 6pm.

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 you will be making a difference to our community.

The next full PC meeting will be on Mon 6 Feb at 7pm at Mortimer Hall; the Pavilion, Recreation Grounds, Allotments and Cemetery committee meets on Mon 27 Feb at 6pm at Mortimer Hall.

The clerk, Tim Cann, can be contacted by phone (203139) Mon to Wed 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



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 2-5pm; 5.30-7pm

Thursday 2-5pm; 5.30-7pm

Friday 10-12noon; 2-5pm

Saturday 9.30-12.30pm 01865 726823

Hedena Health Medical Centre. 01865 597023

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 Hatfield07706 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 Vallancevallance.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 Close07979 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

Dog grooming in your own home by Tania (NVQ level 3)

20 Harlow Way, Oxford OX3 0QS..... 07877 183281

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 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 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 0RX 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

**Copy deadline for March's (print)-issue is
Thursday 16 February**