



Well, that was Christmas, done and dusted for another year – tree down and decorations boxed up ready for next time, presents put neatly away and thank-yous written. Christmas finished for another year... or is it??

As we step across the threshold of a new year it might seem as if carol singing and baby Jesus are a dim and distant memory of the old one. The shepherds have gone back to their fields to watch their flocks and there is not an angel to be seen. You might also think that the wise men have packed up their camels and ridden off across the desert again, back to the far and distant lands from whence they came. But there you would be wrong, because the wise men - or as I prefer to say the Magi - do not strictly belong in the Christmas story at all.



Their story is a January one. It begins to unfold on 6 January, when the Church celebrates the season of Epiphany (Epiphany meaning 'to reveal that which is hidden'). Baby Jesus was probably a little older and Mary and Joseph were unlikely still to be sheltering in a stable. This part of the story is set against a backdrop of the reign of a jealous tyrant king (Herod) whose cruelty will mean the young Holy family will soon need to flee and become refugees in another land.

But for now, a mysterious 'awe and wonder' moment: a visit by wise men from far off lands bringing gifts to the infant Jesus becomes the next

instalment of the Christmas story; a story which gradually reveals to the world who this baby, Jesus, really is; a story that keeps on giving; a story which will



change the world forever.

The wise men bring, for their part in the story, gifts of great value – the best they could bring - and they lay them at the cradle of a child who is God, before returning home in the full knowledge that they have found the King they were looking for.

So, in this January season of Epiphany, you might just want to unpack your crib scene again – the Holy family and the kings - and put them back on the shelf until Candlemas on 2 February, when the season of Epiphany ends. They will remind you that the story of Christmas doesn't end with the new year. In fact, the story has continued through the centuries, as Jesus - the baby in the manger who grew to die for us on the cross, our God and Saviour - is revealed afresh for each new generation. And I wonder what gift we might bring to the Christ child this Epiphany in the stead of the Magi?

What can I give him, poor as I am?
 If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb;
 If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
 But what I can I give him: give him my heart

(from 'In the Bleak Midwinter' by Christina Rossetti)

May the new year bring you new revelations and blessings beyond measure.

Skye x

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 1st

8am BCP Communion Service at St Nicholas Church

10am Baptism of Rose Hale at St Nicholas Church

Sunday 8th - The Baptism of Christ

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 Christmas Messy Church in the Parish Hall

Sunday 15th - Epiphany 2

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 at St Nicholas Church Hall.

Sunday 22nd - Epiphany 3

8am BCP Communion Service at St Nicholas Church

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

6pm Churches Together Joint Service at United Reform Church

Sunday 29th - Epiphany 4

8am BCP Communion Service at St Nicholas Church

10am Holy Communion Service at St Nicholas Church
with Guest Speaker Keith Hebden from Citizen Uk

The service is **LIVE streamed straight onto YouTube**

**6pm A special service for Candlemas at St Nicholas Church with the Jr
choir**



**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?..**

What to quote in January?

Winter by William Shakespeare

When icicles hang by the wall
And Dick the shepherd blows his nail
And Tom bears logs into the hall,
And milk comes frozen home in pail,
When Blood is nipped and ways be foul,
Then nightly sings the staring owl,
Tu-who;
Tu-whit, tu-who: a merry note,
While greasy Joan doth keel the pot.

When all aloud the wind doth blow,
And coughing drowns the parson's saw,
And birds sit brooding in the snow,
And Marian's nose looks red and raw
When roasted crabs hiss in the bowl,
Then nightly sings the staring owl,
Tu-who;
Tu-whit, tu-who: a merry note,
While greasy Joan doth keel the pot.

Nature notes: What to see and hear in January?

It may be mid-winter time but there is still much to enjoy in Marston. Birds are busily feeding (and bathing) to ensure survival. Don't forget to put out food and fresh water daily. Look out for early signs of spring in hedgerows including catkins, the male



flowers of the hazel tree. It's the Big Garden Birdwatch, a great piece of citizens' science for everyone, whether you're a complete

beginner or birding expert. You count the birds you see in your garden, from your balcony or in your local park for one hour between 27 & 29 January and let the RSPB know what you saw. For more information visit <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>

What to cook in January?

Frittata serves 2-3

Ingredients

4 eggs
2 tbsp milk
2 rashers bacon, chopped
6 button mushrooms, chopped
2 left-over roast or boiled potatoes, chopped and/or any other cooked veg, chopped
1 cooked sausage (or any other cooked meat) chopped
25g grated cheese

Method

Beat the eggs and milk in a bowl. Heat your grill. Fry the bacon and mushrooms in a frying pan that you can use for grilling. When almost cooked, add the sausage, potato and/or other cooked meat and veg. Heat until all ingredients are hot. Lower heat beneath pan to medium and add the beaten egg to the mixture, gently stirring until nearly cooked. Sprinkle grated cheese on top and grill until melted.



WI

Our next meeting will be on Tue 10 Jan at 7.30pm in the Church Hall.

Coffee Pot

Coffee Pot will be held on Mon 16 Jan 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 27 Jan.

Marston Times delivery person STILL wanted for 2023

We need somebody to deliver the Marston Times for to Cumberlege Close & Bradlands and Oxford Road 46-110 even numbers. Currently this is a single round but could conveniently be divided into two if it helps. 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 colingharris31@gmail.com It provides a good opportunity for exercise and meeting people! The next printed issue will appear at the end of Feb 2023.

Marston Times by post

From January 2023 the cost of receiving a printed monthly copy of the Marston Times by post will be £8.

Divya Shanthi at the Christmas Fair on 3 Dec

Thanks to all our generous visitors and our hard-working stallholders we raised over £1000 for our Marston-based charity Divya Shanthi Mission Support (DSMS). It is celebrating 20 years of supporting 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 it does at dsms.org.uk and facebook.com/DSMScharity.

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



Loaves & Fishes



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)

Marston Community Gardening

Winter news and dates

Sat 28 Jan - Bike Doctor with Bainton Bikes Eco Hub, Elsfield Rd, Old Marston, 1pm - 4pm
Book a slot with Kevin: bikedr@spoke.co.uk or 01865 311610. You pay for parts and donations for the repair cost by cash/ card. Bookings will be open a week before the event. Also bikes for sale! A small number of second-hand bikes with a three-month warranty. Prices range from £100 to £280

Regular meetings

Forest Garden Work Gatherings - 10:30am, 2nd Sunday of the month, Court Place Farm Allotments

Northway Arts & Gardening Cafe - 2pm, 1st Sunday of the month, Northway Community Centre –

NB Starts on 8 Jan this month!

Allotment Gardening Together - 2pm, last Sunday of the month, MCG Community Allotments, Court Place Farm Allotments

Marston Wombles - monthly - contact us to join the What'sAppgroup: marstonecogroup@gmail.com

Northway Wombles - monthly - contact northwaytogether@gmail.com

The first Repair Cafe was held at the St Nicholas Church Hall on 15 Oct (International Repair Day!), organised jointly by the Marston Eco Group & SHARE Oxford (huge thanks to Caroline, and everyone involved). 33 people booked slots and brought in one or more items for repair on the day, of which 54 were fixed, including: knives sharpened, electrical items working, clothes repaired and bicycles fixed with small repairs. The repairers were all volunteers and did a fantastic job of getting things working again, saving items from landfill. Marston Eco Group aims to host at least three Repair Cafes annually in Marston, depending on the need. The next step is to organise one for February 2023, date yet to be confirmed. If you are interested in getting involved, then contact: marstonecogroup@gmail.com



Old Marston Parish Council report

At the December Parish Council meeting the PC had concerns with a planning application from 46 Oxford Road and has asked that Oxford City Council could call it in. OCC informed the PC that 76 Cherwell Drive's planning application had been withdrawn.

The PC agreed to award grants to St Nicholas Society of Bell Ringers, Mortimer Hall, Mortimer Hall Pre-School, Marston Community Garden Group, the Marston Times, OXSRAD, St Nicholas Primary School's Forest School, Court Place Farm Allotments Association, Old Marston Mill Lane Allotments Association and the 43rd Scout Group.

The stiles across the Right of Way leading from Elsfield Road towards Court Place Allotments will be replaced with two wooden gates. This is being funded by the PC as part of its Health & Wellbeing Initiative.

The Clerk has also contacted Oxfordshire County Council with regard to placing a bollard on the route running from Raymund Road to the cycle track on the Marston Ferry Road. There have been some safety issues involving cyclists and parents and children waiting outside St Nicholas Primary School.

A revised calendar of meetings for PC and committee meetings in 2023 has been agreed; full PC meetings remain scheduled for the first Monday of each month 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 9 Jan at 7pm at Mortimer Hall; the staffing and standards committee meets on Mon 30 Jan 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 Vlad07919 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 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 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 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 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**