

St Nicholas, Marston and St Thomas of Canterbury, Elsfeld

# MARSTON TIMES

April 2023 [stnicholasmarston.org.uk](http://stnicholasmarston.org.uk) Donations welcome

## Risen indeed!

It may sometimes be hard to believe that there will be better times. It may, at times, be hard to feel blessed by our seasonal and maritime climate. But our springtime journey through Lent and Easter is a most powerful gift to offer us that hope. As I write this in mid-March, we have just celebrated the Spring equinox with an evening service in the vicarage garden. Although pleased that my umbrella hadn't proved necessary, a strong wind seemed determined to remind us, gathered round the fire for prayers, poems and reflections on the meaning, the



balance, of the season, that winter would try to return. Indeed we often experience a little Oxford snowfall in April, adding a different source of white to the blackthorn and cherry blossom of the Spring palette.

But April snow rarely settles and it never lasts long. The bluebells and yellow archangels continue their emergence from the warming damp earth to receive the relay baton in their turn from the primrose, lesser celandine and early sweet and dog violets that precede the budburst of the woodland tree canopy of oak, ash, maple and beech.

But there, on that evening in the vicarage garden, I was struck by the birdsong. Despite the fading light, a blackbird sang loud and clear from the vicarage rooftop. Not the clucking of the blackbird's usual evening chorus, but the full Spring song of a dawn chorus.



Others, some more distant, sang also: a goldcrest and a goldfinch, a coal tit and a green woodpecker,



and at least three robins. Usually the last to be heard as evening falls, one nearby robin proved faithful to that promise and continued long after the blackbird had fallen silent. Winter

has passed, they were saying, Spring is here, your Lenten journey is nearing its end, beloved pilgrim: Christ is risen.

Inexorably it seems, whatever the news of the world, nature will rise again as winter passes. It is no coincidence that Easter falls at this seasonal transition time, as Passover marks our transition from bondage to freedom, from guilt to forgiveness. For Christ is the incarnate spirit of that very life force that has transformed the Earth into a blue pearl shining brightly in the inky blackness.

So the world turns, and Spring must and will come again. Take heart then, for the resurrection hope is not only found in the emergence of the Spring bulbs that we planted together. We find it also in the deep wisdom that founded the bulb's mutual dependence on fungi to help feed it and insects to help it propagate. Here is reflected a love in creation that is beyond our understanding.

In my professional life I read many arguments for why we need nature. Yet somehow, the most obvious and important reason often gets lost in the earnestly delivered scientific explanations about ecosystems, biodiversity, Gaia and the functioning of our immune systems. Of course we need nature for all those reasons, and indeed it is a human conceit to not realise that we need nature more than it needs us. But I believe the most profound reason, is that in the simple pleasure of a Spring flower emerging and in the resumption of the dawn chorus it can speak to us of hope.



**Andy Gosler, Associate Priest**

**Benefice of Marston & Elsfield**  
[stnicholasmarston.org.uk](http://stnicholasmarston.org.uk)

# Holy Week & Easter

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Wednesday - 5th April  
6:30pm 'The Way of The Cross'  
by Saint Francis of Assisi  
at St Nicholas Church

Maundy Thursday - 6th April  
6:30pm Agape Fish n' Chips Supper  
at St Thomas Church in Elsfield.  
Booking essential - [james.p@socialinvestgroup.com](mailto:james.p@socialinvestgroup.com)

Good Friday - 7th April  
10am Good Friday Liturgy at St Nicholas Church  
followed by Hotcross Buns  
11:30am Walk of Witness with the Cross  
starting at St Nicholas Church

EASTER DAY - 9th April  
6am Sunrise Service followed  
by Breakfast in St Nicholas  
Church Hall  
10am Celebration Communion  
at St Nicholas Church  
10am BCP Holy Communion at  
St Thomas Church





### What to quote in April?

**Good Friday in my Heart** by Mary Elizabeth Coleridge  
Good Friday in my heart! Fear and affright!  
My thoughts are the Disciples when they fled,  
My words the words that priest and soldier said,  
My deed the spear to desecrate the dead.  
And day, Thy death therein, is changed to night.

Then Easter in my heart sends up the sun.  
My thoughts are Mary, when she turned to see.  
My words are Peter, answering, 'Lov'st thou Me?'  
My deeds are all Thine own drawn close to Thee,  
And night and day, since Thou dost rise, are one.

### Nature notes: What to see and hear in April?

April is a busy month for wildlife with the nesting season well underway. You may see birds carrying nest material in their beaks. Blackbirds may already have reared their first brood (they typically have two or three broods during the year). You may find a newly-fledged blackbird with its downy feathers in your garden. The parents will be close by keeping watch.



Frothy white blackthorn blossom with its heady scent appears in hedgerows and is an important source of pollen and nectar for insects. Swallows start to arrive this month after their long journey from the southern hemisphere.

### What to make in April?

**No churn ice cream for Grown Ups.**



### Ingredients

1 x 397ml can condensed milk  
1 x 600ml pot double cream  
5 tbsp instant coffee powder (the expensive sort that contains coffee granules)  
4/5 tbsp coffee espresso liqueur cocktail drink.

### Method

Whisk all the ingredients together until soft peaks form and you have a caffe-latte-coloured airy mixture. Pour into 4x500ml/4 x 1-pint airtight containers and freeze for at least 6 hours. Serve straight from the freezer. You can make half the quantity if freezer space is tight. Store the leftover condensed milk in an airtight container in the fridge.

### WI

Our next meeting will be on Tue 11 Apr at 7.30pm in the Church Hall. We will be having a Zumba Class, a form of gentle armchair exercise. Please come and join us in shedding these extra pounds! New members welcomed.

### Coffee Pot

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


### Lunch Club

Our next lunch will be on Fri 28 Apr at 12.30 in the Church Hall: all welcome. A £4 donation is requested. This month's lunch will be celebrating the King's coronation.

### Bereavement Support Group

The next meeting of our Bereavement Support group in the Church Hall from 10 -11.15am will be on Fri 21 April, a change of date due to the Easter break. This is a small, informal group, most likely to benefit those who have been bereaved in the last two years, but may also be suitable for others. If you are interested please contact Eileen Palayiwa on 01865 725423

**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

## BENEFICE OF MARSTON & ELSFIELD



Welcome to St Nicholas & St Thomas.  
Further details can be found on our website  
- [stnicholasmarston.org.uk](http://stnicholasmarston.org.uk)  
Or call the office on 01865 580354.

### Sunday 2nd April - PALM SUNDAY

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

6pm - **Evensong** at St Nicholas Church



### Sunday 9th April - EASTER DAY

6am **SUNRISE** Service starting outside St Nicholas Church.  
Followed by Breakfast in the Hall.

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

10am **BCP** Holy Communion at St Thomas in Elsfield



### Sunday 16th April

8am BCP Communion Service at St Nicholas Church.

10am CW Morning Prayer at St Nicholas Church

**10am Messy Church in St Nicholas Church Hall**

### Sunday 23rd April

8am BCP Communion Service at St Nicholas Church

10am Holy Communion Service at St Nicholas Church. **APCM** to following in the Church Hall. The 10am service is **LIVE** streamed straight onto YouTube

### Sunday 30th April

8am BCP Communion Service at St Nicholas Church

**10am Green Church - starting in the church for simple celtic worship.**

**10:30am Community Green activity ending with refreshments at the Eco Hub**

6pm - Healing Service with Holy Communion

## A Church For Everyone

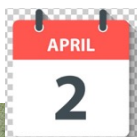
St Nicholas Church has joined Inclusive Church Network.







St. Nicholas  
Marston AT 10am



**A celebration: Including  
a Procession of Palms  
& Holy Communion**



**PALM SUNDAY  
REMEMBERING OUR JESUS' ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM**



St. Nicholas  
Marston

### **'The Way of the Cross'**

**Stations of the Cross  
by Francis of Assisi**

**Wed 5th April  
6:30pm**

**Traditional & Reflective**

### **Benefice of Marston & Elsfield**

**Fish n' Chip Supper  
& Informal Communion**

(optional foot washing)

At St Thomas Church, Elsfield



**Holy Thursday**



Book Fish N' Chips with James Plunket  
[james@checkemian.com](mailto:james@checkemian.com) &  
07507 885169 by 1st April  
(£10 fish & £7 veg pie)

**Start 6:30pm**



St. Nicholas  
Marston



**Good Friday Liturgy  
10am - 7th April**

**Short Service including the  
Proclamation of the Cross**

*Followed by Hot cross buns & Coffee*

**Leave St Nicholas church at  
11:30 For Churches Together  
Procession of the Cross**



**9th of  
April**



**6am Easter Day  
Sunrise Service**

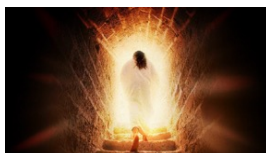
**Starts outside St Nicholas Church  
Followed by Breakfast in the Church Hall**

**10am**

**Easter Day Celebrations**

**at**

**St Nicholas &  
St Thomas in  
Elsfield**





Messy Church at St Nicholas, Marston  
Church Hall, Elsfield Road  
Sundays 10 – 11.30am, 2023

April 16<sup>th</sup>  
June 18<sup>th</sup>  
July 16<sup>th</sup>

(NB, May 21<sup>st</sup> – No Messy Church,

Love Marston Love Life 3pm Mortimer Hall Park)

Crafts, Bible Stories, Singing,  
Prayer, Breakfast

All ages welcome

(children need to bring an adult with them)



## "This is the day"

Come and join us at our Dementia  
Inclusive Service on  
Wednesday  
12<sup>th</sup> April 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  
physical or psychological difficulties or  
would just enjoy companionship at a  
short service, followed by refreshments  
and activities. Family members, 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 Stoltson 01865 246157 / 07712495406

valstoltson@aol.com



0345 450 1276

We enable older people in Oxfordshire to live life to the full.  
Whether you're on a quest to live well into old age or  
if you're going through tough times, we're here to help you.

### Our Services

Information and advice  
Dementia support  
Carer support  
Physical activity classes  
Telephone befriending  
Digital support  
Home support  
Homeshare  
Bereavement support groups  
Foot care  
Scams prevention advice  
Hospital discharge support  
Social activities and clubs  
LGBTQ+ groups  
Book groups

contactus@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk  
www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire



Age UK Oxfordshire is an independent local charity. Registered charity No. 1011228 and company limited by guarantee.  
No. 4028143, registered in England and Wales. Registered office: Village Court, Bottom Lane, Abingdon, OX14 2YT.



### 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

23<sup>rd</sup> January 27<sup>th</sup> February  
27<sup>th</sup> March 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

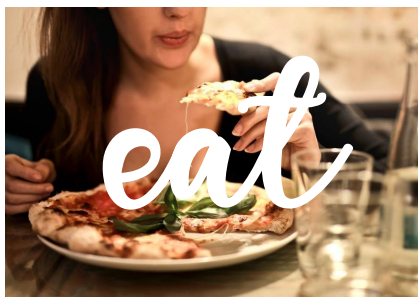


Northway Community Centre  
45 Dora Carr Close, Northway, Oxford, OX3 9RF

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: 100529  
Northway District Community Association registered charity number: 304344

AGE OF CREATIVITY



### EAT PRAY LOVE (OXFORD) A CHRISTIAN GATHERING FOR ALL

A café style meeting place  
Conversations with the gospels  
Contemporary worship  
Reflections on living for Christ

6.00pm to 7.15pm  
3rd Sundays of the month  
(February to October)  
St Nicholas' Parish Hall Room,  
Elsfield Road OX3 0PR

EatPrayLoveOxford  
.WordPress.Com



## All Welcome Earth Day

Saturday 22nd April

2 - 5 pm

Marston Eco Hub

Marston Vicarage, Old Marston, Elsfield Road, OX3 0PR

Information

Face-painting

Stalls

Crafts

Talks

Plants

Singing

Refills

Refreshments

And much more!







### Love Marston Love Life

We hope, with your help, that the next 'Love Marston Love Life' will be bigger and better than before. With entertainment from a professional magician, local choirs, bouncy castles, refreshments and stalls from community groups, there should be something for everyone to enjoy. Make sure you have it in your diary!



If you can help on the day in any way or are a member of a group which can bring a stall or a game to advertise your activities, please get in touch as soon as possible. You can call St Nicholas church office on 01865 580354 and leave a message with your name and phone or email, or find out more and contact us via the web site: [lovemarstonlovelife.wordpress.com](http://lovemarstonlovelife.wordpress.com) Love Marston Love Life is organised by Churches Together in Marston and Northway by kind permission of Old Marston Parish Council and support from local charities.

### Old Marston Parish Council report

At the March meeting the PC had no concerns about a planning application from 20 Raymund Road. Oxford City Council has notified the PC that the application on land to the rear of 1 Cromwell Close has been withdrawn, while those from 78 Oxford Road and 39 Elms Drive have been approved.

Thank you to all who came along to OXCLEAN this year. We were joined by our usual regulars, as well as a few new faces, including two members of staff from the Mid-counties Coop store in Old Marston Road.

The PC is compiling a *Community Needs* survey. This will, hopefully, get the views of as many people in the parish as possible, enabling the council to make more informed decisions and help the community plan for its future.

Due to Bank Holidays, the annual PC meeting will be on Mon 15 May at 7pm in the Mortimer Hall and the annual parishioners meeting will be on Mon 22 May at 7pm in the Mortimer Hall. All are welcome.

Full PC meetings are scheduled for 3 Apr, 15 May, 5 June, 3 July, 4 Sep, 2 Oct, 6 Nov & 4 Dec at 7pm at Mortimer Hall. Other committees meet there on the last Monday of each month at 6pm.

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](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

### Marston Panto postponed

Some of the cast have gone down with Covid this week, so we have decided to postpone the Marston Pantomime. The new dates for the performances are: Sat 22 April at 7pm, either in the Scout Hall or St Michael's School (the two venues are close together) and on Sun 23 April at 3pm in St Michael's School.





## 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  
Hugh Deam, Tower Captain ..... 01865 247574  
Roy Peach, Secretary ..... 07788 746157

### 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:

OXSRAD 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 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, Judy Young .....  
Secretary, Jennie Burrow ..... jennie.burrow@gmail.com  
Treasurer, Felicity Dendy.....

## 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 Reflexology: relaxation, stress-relief and rebalance  
www.oxfordreflexology.co.uk ..... 07726 312719

Holistic Therapies with Dr Paola Bisicchia: Massage, Reiki, 07722 474735

Chakra Reading, Life Coaching email: [info@yourawakeningpath.com](mailto:info@yourawakeningpath.com)

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

20 Harlow Way, Oxford OX3 OQS ..... 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 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 4LY ..... 01865 570000

Garden & small machinery service/repair ..... taylordannyuk@yahoo.co.uk

Danny Taylor, 5 Ouseley Close, Marston OX3 OJS ..... 07796 573319

### Hair and Beauty

Fiona's Hair Salon:

Salford Road, Old Marston OX3 ORX ..... 01865 241632

Home decluttering & organising: Marie Kondo certified ..... 07877 183281

### 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

