

St Nicholas, Marston and St Thomas of Canterbury, Elsfield

MARSTON TIMES

September 2023 stnicholasmarston.org.uk Donations welcome

Feasting and fasting

For most of the 900 years that St Nicholas has been the parish church of Old Marston, feasts and fasts would have shaped the lives of the local people. Holidays came at the times of religious festivals and celebrations such as Christmas and Easter followed the penitence and fasting of Advent and Lent. Feasts would often have been community events, like the harvest suppers that followed the hard work of bringing in the crops.

Harvest suppers were major feasts. Flora Thompson's book *Lark Rise* recalls her Oxfordshire childhood at the beginning of the 20th century. She describes how the farm workers would be invited to



a huge harvest home dinner at the farmer's house after the last sheaf of corn was collected. Hams were boiled, sirloins roasted, plum puddings stacked

and eighteen-gallon casks of ale were tapped. Farm workers suffered from poor wages and harsh working conditions, but they knew how to feast when they had the opportunity.

We are all familiar with the idea of some sort of fasting or abstinence in Lent, but if you had lived in



Marston some five hundred years ago, fasting would have made up as much as a third of your year: this might have been in small ways, such as avoiding meat on

Fridays or for longer periods of abstaining from all meat and dairy products. However your feasts would have been much longer celebrations – though peacock and boar's head might not have been as appealing as roast turkey!

The survival of the church building for 900 years also owes a debt to one of the customs at feast times. Church or Parish ale was traditionally brewed by the



churchwardens at feast times, especially at Whitsun, as a fund raiser for the local poor and the maintenance of the church. A humorous verse from the time of George III reads:

*The Churches much owe, as well we do knowe
For when they be drooping and ready to fall,
By a Whitsun or Church Ale up again they shall go.
And owe their repairing to a pot of good ale.*

There are serious, spiritual reasons for this pattern of fasting and feasting. Although they seem very different, they are really two sides of the same coin, because they are both about our relationship with God. Times of fasting and prayer have always had the purpose of helping us to focus on our spiritual lives and on drawing closer to God. Times of feasting are not about over-indulgence but to celebrate God's goodness and provision for us and the community we live in.

Here at St Nicholas we have missed Skye over the months of her sabbatical, but we know that she has been using her time in pilgrimage and prayer and deepening her faith. Now she is returning, it is a great time for a feast! At our all-age, 10am service on Sunday 3 Sept, which Skye will be leading, we shall also be welcoming back some of the children she has baptised since she came to St Nicholas. Afterwards there will be a barbecue in the vicarage garden (though without the eighteen-gallon casks of ale!) Do come to the service and the barbecue and welcome Skye back.

Email familyminister@stnicholasmarston.org.uk if you know you can come to the barbecue and games, to help us the catering numbers, but even if you don't email, do come anyway!



Gill Hale

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 and speak to Debbie.

On Wednesdays at 9:30am we have Holy Communion at St Nicholas Church.

Sunday 3rd - Baptism Sunday

10am - **Community Celebration Service with Holy Communion** *with Jr choirs/choir & Worship band* at St Nicholas Church. BBQ to follow after the service!

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

Sunday 10th - Trinity 14

8am BCP Communion Service at St Nicholas Church

10am Holy Communion Service at St Nicholas Church
LIVE streamed straight onto YouTube

Sunday 17th - Trinity 15

8am BCP Communion Service at St Nicholas Church.

10am CW Morning Prayer at St Nicholas Church
10am Messy Church in St Nicholas Church Hall

10am HARVEST FESTIVAL at St Thomas Church in Elsfield

Sunday 24th - Trinity 16

8am BCP Communion Service at St Nicholas Church

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

6pm Eat, Pray, Love (Cafe Service) at St Nicholas Church Hall

A Church For Everyone

St Nicholas Church has joined Inclusive Church Network.



Vicar: Skye Denno 01865 202988
Administrator: Debbie Bailey 01865 580354
Churchwardens: Judith Piggott 01865 764693
Jan Lawrie 01865 250862

James Plunkett 07507 885169
Justine McCool 07426 463119

What to quote in September?

My Dragonflies by Ruary Mackenzie Dodds

Of all the insects in the skies

The brightest are my dragonflies.

My dragonflies are stained-glass men

Who loop and turn and loop again.

On crystal wings they catch the light,

Like neon shards in jump-jet flight.

The sun and wind combine to make

A million diamonds in the lake:

Ripple-flash echoes on the mill –

My dragonflies are brighter still.

Nature notes: What to see and hear in September?

September is a month of change. Swallows prepare to migrate and often gather on telegraph wires before their long journey to the southern hemisphere. Hedgerows are awash with crab apples and berries, great for jam or jelly-making, with blackberries at their best this month. Folklore dictates that they should never be picked after Michaelmas Day, 29 September. Look out for inquisitive dragonflies and in particular the migrant hawk (pictured). You might see one “hawking” for insect prey, well away from water. Hedgehogs need to fatten up ready for hibernation. If you have a garden, you could put out meaty cat or dog food and fresh water for them.



What to cook in September?

Raspberry almond streusel cake

Ingredients

100g softened unsalted butter

100g caster sugar

2 large eggs

100g self-raising flour

300g raspberries

icing sugar to serve

For the streusel topping

50g plain flour

pinch of salt

25g caster sugar

50g flaked almonds

Method

Heat the oven to 180C/350F/gas mark 4

Line a 20cm cake tin with baking parchment

For the streusel topping, melt the butter in a small saucepan, stir in the flour, salt and sugar to make a crumbly mixture, then stir in the almonds and set aside.



For the cake, cream together butter and sugar. Beat in the eggs, one at a time, adding a spoonful of flour with each egg. Fold in the remaining flour. Put the batter in the tin and spread evenly. Scatter the raspberries on the top and cover with the streusel mix. Bake for about 45 minutes (until a skewer comes out clean). Leave to cool in the tin. Dust with icing sugar.

Bereavement Support Group

The Bereavement Support Group will meet in the Church Hall from 10 - 11.15am on Fri 8 September. This group is most likely to benefit those who have been bereaved in the last two years. If you are interested please contact Eileen on 01865 725423

WI

Marston Women's Institute meets every second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at the Church Hall, Elsfield Road, Old Marston. Our next meeting will be on Tue 12 September when Liz Woolley, an Oxford historian and author will be talking about child labour in the 19th Century. Liz's talks are always very interesting and informative so do come along as our guest for an initial visit. Tea and homemade cakes will be enjoyed afterwards.

Coffee Pot

Coffee Pot will meet in the Church Hall on Mon 18 September from 10.30am to 12 noon. We welcome all who have been bereaved as well as any who would like to meet more people. Please contact Eileen Palayiwa on 01865 725423 or via eileen.palayiwa@yahoo.com for details.

Lunch Club

Our next lunch will be on Fri 29 September at 12.30 in the Church Hall: all welcome. A £4 donation is requested. To book ring Debbie (our administrator) on 01865 580354.

Ride & Stride

This year's Ride & Stride takes place on 9 Sept. Please follow this link for more information:

<https://ohct.org.uk/ride-and-stride>






Saturday 7 October
11am-3pm

**Mortimer Hall, Oxford Road,
Old Marston**

**Artisan baker, pottery, crafts, food,
local produce, pre-school open day**

Bring cash & card

**WANT TO JOIN A
PILATES CLASS**
run by
EXPERIENCED INSTRUCTORS



OX Physio
Advanced Physiotherapy & Pilates

Now available at Oxsrad

Monday mornings	10.00am
Monday evenings	7pm & 8pm
Tuesday mornings	10.00am
Tuesday evenings	7pm & 8pm

Contact us for more details
Tel: 01865 764613
Email: info@oxphysio.co.uk
Web: www.oxphysio.co.uk

Loaves & Fishes



MARSTON COMMUNITY LARDER

Along with a few essential items there will be **fresh produce** (bread & veg, fruit etc) from Oxford Food Hub. Any left will be moved into the SESI refill area

9-11am

THE GIVING GARAGE
Marston Eco Hub - OX3 0PR
OPEN EVERY SATURDAY

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

St. Nicholas Marston

Messy Church at St Nicholas, Marston
Autumn 2023

Sunday 17th September
Sunday 15th October
Sunday 19th November
Sunday 17th December

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

Talking Pet Behaviour

PUPPY SCHOOL OXFORD

Puppy School Classes in Oxford

- Puppy School Classes teaching basic obedience eg walking on loose lead and come when called
- Puppy School Classes run by Animal Behaviour Counsellor and Registered Vet Nurse
- 8 puppies maximum per class
- Our classes are regularly monitored by our regional managers at www.puppyschool.co.uk to ensure high standards
- Welcome pack including puppy treats & training manual included

OUR CLASSES

St. Nicholas Church Hall, Old Marston & New Marston Pastoral Centre, New Marston

6 week course on Thursday mornings & evenings

clarebradley@puppyschool.co.uk
TEL: 07707 219437

BOOK NOW

www.talkingpetbehaviour.co.uk/puppy-school-classes

Follow us @talkingpetbehaviour



**A welcoming Youth Group for 11+
2nd & 4th Sats 7-9pm**

If you want to know more contact Helen
familyminister@stnicholasmarston.org.uk

eat

pray

LOVE

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

St Nicholas Marston

Cleaning the church

We have a group of volunteers who dust and polish the church at regular intervals and each have a small area for which they are responsible. Recently a couple of people have left and we are looking for others to take over their areas. If you can help, please speak to one of the churchwardens.

Repair Café

Marston Community Gardening with Share Oxford are organising another Marston repair café on Saturday afternoon 30 September at St Nicholas Church Hall. If you have any items in need of repair (small electrical items, clothes) save the date & I will share a booking link once we know what type of volunteer repairers we have. The focus is on skill-sharing: rather than throwing things away, we learn to fix them! If anyone can volunteer to help with repairs, or you want more information, please do get in touch with me.

aml@alloyd.co.uk

Annie

Autumn Fun Day

Please note that this will now take place in the Church Hall on **Sat 4 November 10-1pm**.

Age UK Oxfordshire's Homeshare Service

Age UK Oxfordshire's Homeshare service supports older people to continue living independently at home. It carefully and safely brings together an older person (or couple) who is looking for help or companionship at home, with another person (possibly a mature student, keyworker, or other professional) who is happy to lend a hand and would benefit from affordable accommodation.

In exchange for offering a spare room in a welcoming home, the Householder can expect 10 hours of help each week as a combination of companionship and practical support. The reassuring presence of another person in the house overnight is often an additional benefit to the Householder.

A Homeshare arrangement does not involve any personal care but can sit quite comfortably alongside a care provision. Please find contact details below and do get in touch to find out more.

Homeshare Oxfordshire

Phone: 01865 410670

Email: homeshare@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk

Visit: <http://www.homeshareoxfordshire.org.uk/>



Marston Times delivery

December's issue of the MT will need a new volunteer to take over its delivery to Fane Road. This is a modest round of about 35 residencies. Printed issues of the MT need distribution in March, June, September and December. Contact Colin: colingharris31@gmail.com

What is Divya Shanthi?

If you read the Marston Times or attend St Nicholas Church, you may have seen news and updates from Divya Shanthi in Bangalore, India, but perhaps you've wondered what this charity is and how it's connected to St Nicholas.

Divya Shanthi was founded over 50 years ago by Colleen and Vinay Samuel, who are regulars at St Nicholas when they're at their home in Marston. For much of the year they are in Bangalore, working with the team at Divya Shanthi running a school for 500 children ages 5-16, along with boarding homes for children from birth to 18+ who are orphaned or unable to be cared for by their families. They also run health clinics, churches, youth groups, and homework clubs, seeking to serve 'the poorest of the poor' – families and individuals in very difficult circumstances.

Divya Shanthi Mission Support (DSMS) is a small Marston-based charity founded over 20 years ago by members of St Nicholas Church. We raise money in the UK to send to Divya Shanthi, through regular donations, fundraising events, and child sponsorship. Our next event is our Christmas Market on **Sat 2 Dec from 2.30pm–4.30pm**.

As a church, St Nicholas sponsors a child at Divya Shanthi: Muthyalamma, who has just turned 10 years old. She and her younger sister are orphans and both live at Divya Shanthi. Muthyalamma had some health difficulties a few years ago but is much better now. Divya Shanthi staff describe her as a very bright student who is helpful to her classmates and has a talent for singing, dancing, and drama. There's a photo of her and a Christmas card from her on the notice board in the church hall.

A number of individuals and families in Marston also sponsor children at Divya Shanthi. Go online to DSMS.org.uk and facebook.com/DSMScharity. We post news and prayer requests from Divya Shanthi on Facebook, and you can make a one-off donation or find out more about sponsoring a child at Divya Shanthi through our website.

Elsfield Harvest Bring-and-Share Supper

Come to Elsfield's bring-and-share supper in the Village Room at Elsfield church. It begins at **6.30pm on Sat 16 Sept**. Please contact James Plunket on 07507 885169 to tell him how many people you plan to bring and whether you will supply a main course or pudding. Donations of tins, jars and packets will be gratefully accepted on behalf of The Porch Day Centre in Cowley.



Bellringers' report

Summer often finds us shorter on ringers with people away on their holidays. Despite this we have managed to ring regularly. Fewer ringers usually means more chance to try new methods and different bells – an ideal time for new ringers. Another ideal time to join is now! Start in the next few weeks and you could enjoy the magic of ringing for Christmas and New Year. There is truly something special about it. We'll be starting handbell practices at the end of October too.

Not straying away from summer though, there have been many ringing opportunities over the past month. Several quarter peals have occurred including at Bletchington (6), where Plain Bob Minor and Little Bob Minor were rung. Nether Winchendon (5), saw our first quarter peal at the Grade 1 listed church since 2007: this church was famously seen in *Midsomer Murders* and *Bridget Jones' Diary*. A 1260 Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Place Doubles was rung here.

On Sun 30 July the quarter peal rung for the Healing Service at Marston saw Andrea Rowley ring her most method variations so far. Well done. On the same day Alison Merryweather-Clarke rang her 1000th quarter peal on the St Giles' bells.

There have been branch practices people of all abilities to try, and the diary is filling up with ringing events and outings across the county and further afield to see us through the next few months. We're even taking the handbells on the road to two local Scout groups. Did you know that we can welcome Scouts, Guides, and Youth Clubs to try the church bells too? Come and have a go!

Roy

Two Summer Haiku

the hobby shatters
the unstained glass windows
of dragonfly wings



the reed warbler's song
spirals up the thickening stems
the cuckoo's voice breaks

This is a summer entry from *An Otmoor Almanac*, a recently published illustrated pamphlet of poems by Caroline Jackson-Houlston ISBN 978-1-80352-931-8

Old Marston Parish Council report

There was no council meeting in August. However, the planning committee met to view applications from 60 Cherwell Drive, 2 Broughton Close, 33 Ashlong Road and 14 Salford Road, to which the committee had no objections.

The planning committee had concerns with the application from 32B Oxford Road regarding height of the proposed new dwelling and not within keeping of surrounding existing dwellings.

Concerning the application from Marston Paddock in Butts Lane: the committee asked for clarification on the planned cycle route from the ring road through the Paddock and beyond and why the footpath at the rear of the Paddock needs to be removed. Although permission has been granted, pedestrian and cycle routes need further examination, particularly as access to the site is limited, presenting a danger to both pedestrians and cyclists. Further concerns were voiced about access for emergency services, refuse lorries and construction vehicles, which all must negotiate via a very small entrance. There is also no mention about where such vehicles turn round: not only is there danger to existing walls and buildings but to pedestrians and cyclists. The PC, reflecting the concerns of those that live locally, would like an urgent review of the plans before an accident occurs, during or after construction.

Oxford CC has informed the PC that planning applications from 21 Haynes Road, 60 Cherwell Drive and 9 Gordon Close have been refused while those from 10 Nicholas Avenue, Court Place Farm Pavilion, Marsh Lane, 31 Beechey Avenue and 45 Arlington Drive have been approved.

At the time of writing this there is still no decision from the judicial review on the proposed developments at Almond's Farm and Hill View Farm.

There have been further instances of vandalism at the recreation ground. Last month the 'NO DOGS' notices on the play area gate of Boults Lane Recreation Ground had been ripped down. Now the 'NO DOG' notices at the Mortimer Hall Recreation Ground have been removed too! Replacements have been ordered. The PC next meets on 4 September and then on 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

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

A complete record of minutes of all Parish Council meetings can be found on its website:

<https://www.oldmarston-pc.gov.uk/>

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 9.30-11.30 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

Debbie Bailey, Parish Office 01865 580354

Women's Institute

Meetings at 7.30 second Tue of each month - new members welcome!

President, Judy Young judithyoung732@gmail.com

Secretary, Jennie Burrow jennie.burrow@gmail.com

Trade Directory

Architectural services for Planning Permissions/ Building Regulations

Digby Architectural: 4 Broughton Close 07979 756918

Bathroom installation, plumber, glazier, tiler

Roger G Turner 07914 925757

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

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

Homewood Funerals (Family-owned and managed)

14 Cherwell Drive, Marston OX3 4LY 01865 570000

Garden & small machinery service/repair taylorandannyuk@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

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 December's (print)
issue is Thursday 16 November**

