St Nicholas, Marston and St Thomas of Canterbury, Elsfield

MARSTON TIMES

November 2023 stnicholasmarston.org.uk Donations welcome

In October we admired the autumnal leaves with their various hues. The bright yellows, green tints, golds, multifarious reds and shades of brown, created images that linger in the mind. But now the particoloured decorations in the trees are quickly disappearing and the crisp, withered leaves rustle on the branches or drift about the ground. The poet William C. Bryant captured these November days well when he wrote:

The melancholy days are come, the saddest of the year,

Of wailing winds, and naked woods, and meadows brown and sere.

Heaped in the hollows of the grove the autumn leaves lie dead;

They rustle to the eddying gust, and to the rabbit's tread.

Out of my window I stare at the bare limbs of the trees and see a few leaves clinging, as it were, to life, and the thought comes: Why do they wish to stay when all their comrades are gone? Are they *that* determined to hang onto life - even if it's their



destiny to fall?

November can elicit thoughts of endings and death, not only of leaves and flowers, but also of our own dear departed. It is fitting that the

Anglican Church has dedicated this month to the Holy Souls. On the first of November we celebrate the Feast of the Triumphant Saints; and the following day is the commemoration of All Souls. Our All Souls service was earlier this year, falling on the last Sunday of October with a Celtic gathering on the 31st. Another service for remembering is on 12 November, when we remember those combatants who died in battle, regardless of which side they fought for, in our Remembrance service.

It has been said to me that autumn can be depressing. However, our thoughts can move from sad and sombre musings to things more hopeful

when we recall, "Nature does no idle thing." Nothing in nature is totally destroyed; something new always develops. "Unless, the grain of wheat die, itself remaineth alone." (John 12:24) We see the need for this rest - not death - in nature. If all flowers and grasses and foliage are to awaken to new life in the spring, this death is necessary. I believe this applies to ourselves as well. It is only by our earthly death that we can be born to our new lives in God's eternal heavenly Kingdom.

It is no coincidence that the month of November also marks the end of the Church's year. At the beginning

of the new Church year, the first Sunday of Advent, the liturgy's theme is the second coming of Christ. But it's



important to know where we have been and where we are going before we begin a new chapter in our life of faith. The end of the Church's year calls us to renewed awareness of our goal with the solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the King. We are encouraged to look at our faith over that year from beginning to end, and from end to new beginning as we step into Advent.

I pray that this month will be a blessing to you, that you will see the beauty in the change of season and see the hope of new life; as we die to the old and are born to the new knowing through all that we are held in love in the hands of God.

For those of us that may need an extra reminder of God's love during this season, there is a

little gift made especially for you in church.

Much love to you all, Revd Skye



PS the gifts are made by my mother, Ann Maskell

BENEFICE OF MARSTON & ELSFIELD



Welcome to St Nicholas & St Thomas.

Further details can be found on our website <u>stnicholasmarston.org.uk</u> Or call the office on 01865 580354 and speak to Debbie.

On Wednesdays at 9:30am we have Holy Communion & Thursdays at 5pm Evening Prayer at St Nicholas Church.

Sunday 5th - ALL SAINTS

10am - Community Celebration Service with Holy Communion with Jr choirs/choir & Worship band at St Nicholas Church. Shared Lunch to follow after the service at 12noon.

6pm - BCP Choral Evensong at St Nicholas Church with Choir from St Mary the Virgin, Iffley

Sunday 12th - REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

8am BCP Communion Service at St Nicholas Church

9:45am Holy Communion Service at St Nicholas Church Followed by 11am ACT OF REMEMBRANCE with Parish Council

Sunday 19th - Trinity 24

8am BCP Communion Service at St Nicholas Church.

10am Messy Church in St Nicholas Church Hall

10am Morning Prayer at St Nicholas Church

10am Holy Communion at St Thomas Church in Elsfield

6pm - SCOUT SERVICE at St Nicholas Church

A Church For Everyone St Nicholas Church has joined Inclusive

Church



Sunday 26th - CHRIST THE KING

8am BCP Communion Service at St Nicholas Church

10am Holy Communion Service at St Nicholas Church

LIVE streamed straight onto YouTube and Sunday School - ENERGY begins!

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 November?

November Skies by John Freeman Than these November skies Is no sky lovelier. The clouds are deep; Into their grey the subtle spies Of colour creep,

Of colour creep,
Changing that high austerity to delight,
Till ev'n the leaden interfolds are bright.
And, where the cloud breaks, faint far azure peers
Ere a thin flushing cloud again
Shuts up that loveliness, or shares.
The huge great clouds move slowly, gently, as
Reluctant the quick sun should shine in vain,
Holding in bright caprice their rain.
And when of colours none,
Not rose, nor amber, nor the scarce late green,
Is truly seen. --

Is truly seen, -In all the myriad grey,
In silver height and dusky deep, remain
The loveliest,

Faint purple flushes of the unvanquished sun.

Nature notes: What to see and hear in November?

November sees an influx of winter thrushes including redwings, our smallest thrush, an attractive bird (pictured) with a distinctive cream stripe over the eye and red patch under the wing. They arrive from Scandinavia and Iceland to enjoy our warmer winters and feast on autumn berries, worms and even windfall apples in parks and gardens. You may hear their soft "seep" call as they migrate overhead at night. The end of the month (27 Nov) sees the Beaver Moon. There were once beavers living in the Thames valley. Perhaps they will be re-introduced one day, as has happened in some parts of the UK.



What to cook in November - Lancashire Parkin Ingredients.

150g golden syrup

150g black treacle (or another 150g golden syrup)

125g granulated sugar

125g butter

225g plain wholemeal flour

225g porridge oats

2 tsp ground ginger

½ tsp bicarbonate of soda

150ml milk

Method

Grease and line a tin of approx. 23cms x 20cms and heat oven to 180C/gas mark 4. Place syrup and treacle in small saucepan and heat on a low temperature until the butter is melted, stirring all the time. Mix the flour, porridge oats and ginger together in a separate bowl. Pour in the butter mixture and stir well. Add the



bicarbonate of soda and stir quickly and thoroughly. Pour into prepared tin and bake for about 50 minutes until golden brown and springy to touch. Remove from tin and cool

thoroughly on a rack before cutting into squares.

Bereavement Support Group

The Bereavement Support Group will not meet in November or December this year. If you are interested in joining the group in the New Year please contact Eileen on 01865 725423.

WI

Marston Women's Institute meets every second Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm in St Nicholas' Church Hall, Elsfield Road, Old Marston. Our next meeting will be on **Tue 14 Nov** when we shall be hearing about Morris Minors featured in films and having the opportunity to look at a very interesting display. Do come along as our guest for an initial visit. Tea, cakes and a raffle afterwards!

Coffee Pot

Coffee Pot will next meet in the Church Hall on **Mon 20 Nov** from 10.30am to 12 noon. All those who have been bereaved and anyone who would like to meet more people are welcome to join us and enjoy company and light refreshments. Please contact Eileen Palayiwa via eileen.palayiwa@yahoo.com or on 01865 725423 for details.

Lunch Club

Our next lunch will be on **Fri 24 Nov** at 12.30 in the Church Hall: all are very welcome. Since there will be no meeting in December, this will be a Christmas

lunch, so come and start your festive season early! A £4 donation is requested. To book ring Debbie (our administrator) on 01865 580354.



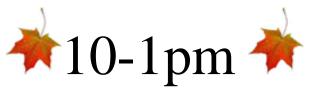
Marston library book club for 7-12 yr olds

We meet on the first Monday of the month, 4.15pm - 5.15pm. We meet up in the library and Mortimer Hall and talk about books, play games and get creative with writing and drawing. There are a few spaces free, so please book by phone: 01865 726823.



Church, Hall & Eco Hub (OX3 0PR)

Sat 4th Nov*



Facepainting, Story Telling, Mice Hunt & Prayer
Stations in the church, Leaf Painting,
DreamCatchers, Autumn wreaths, Fire Pit
Marshmallows and Bread, Puppets, Toffee Apples,
Donuts on a string, Hedgehog Bread,
Coffee & Cake, Raffle & Games.







Remembrance Sunday 12th November



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.





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

> November 19th 2023 December 17th 2023 January 21st 2024

Crafts, Bible Stories, Singing, Prayer, Breakfast

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











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.

The Swan Community Choir

Everybody can sing! Come and join the Swan Community Choir and enjoy a wide variety of songs from simple chants and rounds to glorious harmony. Expect some African, a bit of gospel, a dash of pop and doo-wop, and some world-folk. No written music used - all songs taught by ear! Led by experienced community choir leader Sarah Westcott.

We meet on Thursday evenings from 8pm - 9pm in the main hall of the Swan School, Marston Ferry Road, OX2 7WP. The first session is free so come along and see if you enjoy yourself!

For more information, contact Sarah on 01865 251421 or email her: sarahmwestcott@phonecoop.coop

Marston Community Gardening

We pop up all over Marston! We're always on the look-out for new volunteers to help with growing - whether that's planting trees, sowing wild-flower meadows, growing food at our Community Allotment or Forest Garden, keeping our Eco-Hub refilled, caring for our chickens or cooking in our community kitchen. If any of these projects sound fun - please do get in touch: hello@marstoncommunitygardening.org.uk

Up-coming events

share if you fancy.

Sun 5 Nov Northway Community Gardening and Arts Cafe - Northway Community Centre, 2 - 5pm, Arts and crafts inside and bulb planting and tree planting outside. Hot drinks and refreshments provided.

Sun 12 Nov Marston Forest Garden - Court Place Farm allotments, 11am - 1pm, Gardening Together Sun 19 Nov Tree-mulching and celebration -New Marston Rec Wood, 2-4pm; Croft Road, Marston. Bring along a flask and refreshment to

Sun 26 Nov Marston Community Allotment - Court Place Farm allotments, 2 - 4pm, Gardening Together For all gardening activities - Please bring along your spade/gloves/refreshments if you have them and dress for the weather! We will provide tools, kit and guidance if you need. :-)

Sat 25 Nov Bike Doctor at Marston Eco-Hub, The Vicarage, Elsfield Road. Walton Cycle Bike Dr will service/repair your bike. You can make a donation for labour and will need to pay any specific repairs.

Celebrate October's Black History Month all year

In October, across Britain, Black History Month was being honoured and acknowledged as a celebration of what Black people have contributed to Britain's past and present country, as well as recognizing academic achievements in all sectors of British history, key areas involving the humanities, sciences, and the creative industries. Here are some things I recommend you do to celebrate Black History Month all year round:

- Read books by Black Authors
- Research a Black historian/artist/musician/scientist... Could be on a topic/area you are interested in!
- Watch documentaries/podcasts/films produced by black people
- Visit a museum/watch Ted talk and learn about the contributions of black people



Last month I had the opportunity to organise and create a display of Black female authors who have shaped the world of literature in my school library. I believe it is important to showcase that British

history is made up of the contributions of all types of people, no matter what race, gender or class. Most importantly it should be remembered that Black History Month should not only be celebrated in October but be a constant reminder all year round of how diverse Britain is. Black history is British history.

Lani

Choral Evensong

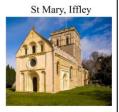
With the Combined Choirs of St Mary & St Nicholas

St Nicholas, Old Marston

All welcome to join us for these contemplative renewing services with well-loved words and worshipful music

Time: 6pm
Sunday 5th November 2023
at Old Marston

Time: 6.30pm Sunday 3rd March 2024 at Iffley



For more information email: $office @ iffley church.org.uk \\ \begin{tabular}{ll} music director @ stnicholasmars ton.org.uk \\ \end{tabular}$

Bellringers' report

At the end of September we took the handbells on tour to two local Beaver Scout groups to teach them the art of making music. They did really well, with a total of 33 children learning how to play a merry tune whilst handling the instruments safely. At the Community Market we spent our time introducing our neighbours to the intricacies of handbells and the tower bells – some said they hadn't even realised it's the same ringers for both. We in turn were taught a little more about the physics of sound waves by an interested party.

St Nicholas has a venerable history of ringing (as can be seen on our website). The tower bells have been in position since the reign of Edward VI. Ringers used to ring on the ground floor, but when the balcony was installed in the 1970s, together with a sixth bell (and no, we didn't stretch the tower to fit it in), ringing moved upstairs to its current position. For many years the tower in our village was actually the leading fivebell tower in the world. We're one of the best to learn on locally and always kept busy.

There has been a plethora of quarter peals recently, with the ringing of Plain Bob Doubles and Plain Bob Minor methods sitting alongside Stedman, Reverse Canterbury, Grandsire, Cambridge Surprise Major and St Anne. Further quarter peals we have supported include St Giles (8), Bletchingdon (6), and Enstone (6). On 14 Oct we travelled north for our autumn ringing outing, visiting the towers of Tysoe (6), Wroxton (5), and Swalcliffe (6) and as we head towards Christmas we're gearing up for our evening visit by the Pulse youth club and a few more handbell engagements. Where will you see us next? Perhaps up the tower? You're always more than welcome, whatever your age.

Old Marston Parish Council report

At the October PC meeting there were planning applications from 82 Arlington Drive and 2 Mortimer Drive to which the PC had no objections. An application from 21 Haynes Road raised concerns over upper floor emergency exits and insufficient parking for the number of rooms. Oxford City Council has informed the PC that planning applications for 4 Haynes Road, 71 Cherwell Drive, 1 Harlow Way, 3 Rimmer Close and 33 Ashlong Road have all been approved. 60 Cherwell Drive was refused and 32B Oxford Road was withdrawn.

There was also an amended application from Land North of Bayswater Brook which still gives the PC concerns as Old Marston is not mentioned in any traffic management plans. At the time of writing there is still no decision from the judicial review on the proposed developments at Almond's Farm and Hill View Farm. Apparently, this could take up to six months.

Parish Councillor Louise Milford is unwell and the PC has given her six months leave of absence from council meetings. The council and clerk wished her well in her recovery and looked forward to welcoming her back. Parish Councillor Peter Cox has resigned from the PC. The council and clerk thanked Peter for his long and active service and wished him well for the future.

The vacancy for a new parish councillor has been advertised on the council noticeboard and social media for interested individuals.

There have been further instances of vandalism within the parish. In Mortimer Hall Recreation Ground the handlebar on the small seesaw have been removed. It has been cordoned off to discourage its use and a new seesaw has been ordered.

The PC has ordered a wreath for another war grave situated at the rear of the church. The council agreed to purchase a natural wreath to reduce the amount of plastic used. This will go on the memorial and five will go on war graves. A donation will be made to the RBL to support the living while remembering the dead.

The PC has decided to give financial support to St Nicholas church for community events throughout the year and to Old Marston Charities Trust to assist in the running of the community larder.

Several bicycles have been left on the cycle racks outside Mortimer Hall. This is causing issues for cyclists who use the hall and library. The PC is looking at adopting a system used by OCC which tags abandoned bikes and removes them later.

The Community Market at Mortimer Hall on 7 Oct was a great success and the organisers are looking at possible future events. A big thank you to the organisers.

The council instructed the clerk to write to the county and city councils to express concerns at the unsatisfactory way in which the grass verges are being managed. The cuttings have been left on the surface, creating a thatch which hinders the growth of any wildflowers.

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 Asso	
	ociations
Court Place F	arm, Boults Lane. Chair: Jane Wilson
	membership@cpf-allotments.org.ul
Sunday morn	ings 8.30 am – 11.00 am07530 068977
Mill Lane	Chairman: Dr. M. Unkovskaya07771 702548
	Treasurer Dana Vlad07919 493580
	Secretary Christine Mitchell07789 991051
Baby and Toddle	er Club Weds 9.30-11.30 term time in Parish Hall
Gill Hale, 64 A	Arlington Drive01865 248260
Bellringers:	
	ay 7.30pm Learners welcome
Hugh Deam,	Tower Captain01865 247574
Roy Peach, S	ecretary07788 746157
Choirs and Mus	icians at St Nicholas
Junior Choir,	SATB Choir, Music Group
Practices at v	
Neil Barker	musicdirector@stnicholasmarston.org.uk
Coffee Pot	
	ng, monthly, Monday
Eileen Palayiv	va, 27 Ouseley Close01865 725423
Rainbow, Brown	nie, Guide and Ranger Units
Evenings thro	oughout the week Adult volunteers as well as girls
	welcomed
District Comr	nissioner, Lesley Dentry,07765 418067
Leisure:	
OXSRAD Spor	rts and Leisure Centre,
Court Place F	arm, Marsh Lane01865 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	9.30-12.30pm01865 726823
Hedena Health	Medical Centre 01865 597023
Marston Comm	unity Gardening
Alistair Morri	s 01865 724081
Kate Robinso	n 01865 766620
Marston Saints	Football Club
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Trade Directory

Architectural services for Planning Permissions/ Building Regulations
Digby Architectural: 4 Broughton Close07979 756918
Bathroom installation, plumber, glazier, tiler
Roger G Turner07914 925757
Building/Builders Services
Colin Simpson: High Class painting, decorating and coving etc:
10 Dent's Close OX3 ONP
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
Oxford Reflexology: relaxation, stress-relief and rebalance
www.oxfordreflexology.co.uk07726 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 0QS07877 183281
Electricians
Brian Turner: Registered NICEIC domestic installer01865 728729
All work guaranteed 33, Salford Roadbrian.r.turner@ntlworld.com
Craig Holloway Electrical Ltd:
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
Funeral Directors
C S Boswell Independent funeral services01865 553737
Homewood Funerals (Family-owned and managed)
14 Cherwell Drive, Marston OX3 4LY01865 570000
Garden & small machinery service/repairtaylordannyuk@yahoo.co.uk
Danny Taylor, 5 Ouseley Close, Marston OX3 0JS07796 573319
Hair and Beauty
Fiona's Hair Salon:
Salford Road, Old Marston OX3 0RX01865 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 1RL01865 251231
Plumbing, Heating & Gas
Lemarsh Building Services – plumbing and heating
22 Marsh Lane
Gas Safe Reg. 146337.
76, Arlington Drive
Andrew Job Plumbing & Heating Ltd:
Gas Safe Registered Engineer 12520601865 761896, 07710 390980
Tree Surgery, Fruit Tree Pruning
R. Timms: 80 Oxford Road
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

