

St Nicholas, Marston and St Thomas of Canterbury, Elsfield

# MARSTON TIMES

May 2024 [stnicholasmarston.org.uk](http://stnicholasmarston.org.uk) Donations welcome

Dear Friends

May the 4th has become known as Star Wars Day and who could be surprised? If you are a Star Wars fan, you will spend this day saying the words, May the fourth be with you! And as dutiful Anglicans we are inclined to answer: and also with you! As a fan I was rather pleased that I was able to arrange my licensing and Installation as Vicar of Marston and Elsfield on May the 4th in 2017. This year on the 4th I will be marking my seventh year here. Wow - where have those seven years gone? When I look back I realise how busy we have been.

Seven is an important number in the Bible; it frequently symbolises fullness or completeness. Often, we see the number seven in reference to holy works of God. For example, God creates the earth in six days (Genesis 1) and commanded the Israelites to make the seventh day of the week the Sabbath, a holy day, when they abstained from working (Exodus 20:8-11). I'm not suggesting my seventh year signifies any completion in serving our parishes - not at all! But I do believe there is something significant about this year and I look to Leviticus 25: 3-4 for a bit of inspiration...

**3** For six years sow your fields, and for six years prune your vineyards and gather their crops. **4** But in the seventh year the land is to have a year of sabbath rest, a sabbath to the Lord.

The land is to have a year of rest. The Benefice has been busy and we have all seen much change since 2020. Rest, leading to patience, means being present, open and aware; it makes space to see what needs tending to and what needs letting go. After seven years in ministry you begin to feel you belong to the story and history of the place, knowing names and understanding the importance of people past and present. Which is why I feel it's important to share our church's financial concerns with the wider community, understanding that St Nicholas church is owned and valued by the whole parish of Marston. It does not just belong to those who share the Christian faith, but also to everyone who has connections through local history, memories of growing up in the

village, loved ones buried here. I believe all of us make up the rich tapestry of St Nicholas' family.

Over the years St Nicholas church has been blessed with many generous donors who have given time and money towards the fabric of the building which holds so much history and is loved by so many. The work the church does in mission and pastoral care contributes to the flourishing and growth of Marston's present and future generations.

Some of you will feel more connected to the physical building and some of you will be more concerned with pastoral care and maybe there are a few of you who connect in both ways! Recently, our financial position has changed, so now we are needing be present, honest and open and to be patient: to see what God is orchestrating now in our parish for the next seven years.

On 5 May, at both the 8am and 10am services, we shall be marking this seven years with our Giving Sunday. You may not want to come to a service but please do use this date to consider whether you can give, in time or money, to St Nicholas church. What we can offer will be different for each of us, but a place and space in which to do this together is important. Do contact the churchwardens if you would like to be involved with fundraising or have questions about the fabric of the building: you will be pleased to know there are no immediate plans to do any building works. If you would like to know more about the finances, set up a direct debit, stop giving because your circumstances have changed, or ask questions, speak to Eileen, our treasurer. If you would like to give money, below is our QR code; alternatively you can give via a bank transfer, by using our card reader in church or in cash on the day. It is not only financial giving that we need, though; there are voluntary roles to be filled (helping with live-streaming and with the sound on a Sunday for example). Finally, if you pray, do pray and walk with us. We need our wonderful church family and community to work together on this.

Blessings and love,

Revd Skye

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

## 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.

Every Wednesday at 9:30am we have Holy Communion at St Nicholas Church.

### **Sunday 5th - Giving Sunday**

10am - **Community Celebration Service with Holy Communion** at St Nicholas Church.  
**LIVE streamed.**

6pm - BCP Evensong at St Nicholas Church.

### **Thursday 8th - Ascension Day**

6:30pm Holy Communion Service at St Nicholas Church.

### **Sunday 12th - 7th Sunday of Easter**

8am BCP Communion Service at St Nicholas Church.

10am Holy Communion Service at St Nicholas Church *with Energy* (Sunday School).  
**LIVE streamed.**

6pm - BCP Evening Prayer at St Nicholas Church.

### **Sunday 19th - PENTECOST**

8am BCP Communion Service at St Nicholas Church.

10am Holy Communion Service at St Nicholas Church

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

**Christian Aid Lunch after the services in the Church Hall - All Welcome.**

### **Sunday 26th - TRINITY SUNDAY**

8am BCP Communion Service at St Nicholas Church

10am Holy Communion Service at St Nicholas Church **LIVE streamed.**

10am Holy Communion Service at St Thomas in Elsfield

**A Church For Everyone**  
**St Nicholas Church is part of the**  
**Inclusive Church Network**



## What to quote in May?

### A Spring Morning by John Clare

The Spring comes in with all her hues and smells,  
In freshness breathing over hills and dells;  
O'er woods where May her gorgeous drapery flings,  
And meads washed fragrant by their laughing springs.  
Fresh are new opened flowers, untouched and free  
From the bold rifling of the amorous bee.  
The happy time of singing birds is come,  
And Love's lone pilgrimage now finds a home;  
Among the mossy oaks now coos the dove,  
And the hoarse crow finds softer notes for love.  
The foxes play around their dens, and bark  
In joy's excess, 'mid woodland shadows dark.  
The flowers join lips below; the leaves above;  
And every sound that meets the ear is Love.

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

May is a month of abundance. The dawn chorus is at its best this month – do join us for an early bird walk at 6 am on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May, starting at St Nicholas Church, with breakfast afterwards. May sees the return of swifts, an iconic long-distance migrant. Look out for them hurtling overhead in small screaming



parties. In hedgerows, the sweet-scented blooms of dog rose (rosa canina) appear, varying from very pale to deep pink. The flowers are an important nectar source for insects and the orange-red rosehips which appear later in the year provide an autumn feast for birds and mammals.

## What to cook in May?

### NZ school cookies - perfect for picnics

#### Ingredients

125g butter  
125g vegan block (I use Stork)  
160g granulated sugar  
½ tin of condensed milk (decant rest into a plastic tub in fridge for next batch)  
½ tsp vanilla extract  
480g plain flour  
2 tsp baking powder  
1 pack dark and 1 pack milk choc chips

## Method

Pre-heat oven to 180C/160C fan. Line 2 baking trays with baking parchment. Beat butter, sugar, condensed milk and vanilla extract until the mixture is fluffy and much paler in colour: this can take up to 10 minutes.



Mix in the flour and baking powder, then incorporate the chocolate chips. Split the dough into two equal pieces and roll each into a sausage shape. Slice each piece into 12 equal pieces. Bake for 20 mins until a nice golden colour. Leave for 3-4 mins before transferring onto a cooling rack to harden.

## WI

Our next WI meeting will be on Tuesday 14 May at 7.30pm in St Nicholas Church Hall, Elsfeld Road, Old Marston. Our speaker is Gillian Cane, who will be telling us all about the Mitford sisters. Gillian lives in Oxford and currently works at Oxford University. Do come along as our guest for an initial visit. Your first visit is free and new members are welcome.

## Coffee Pot

Coffee Pot will meet in the Church Hall on Mon 20 May from 10.30am to 12 noon. We welcome all those who have been bereaved and any who would like to meet others. Please contact Eileen Palayiwa on 01865 725423 for further details.

## Bereavement Support Group

If you would be interested in joining a Bereavement Support Group please contact Eileen on 01865 725423 or [eileen.palayiwa@yahoo.com](mailto:eileen.palayiwa@yahoo.com)

## Lunch Club

Lunch Club will be on Friday 31 May. All are welcome! Ring Debbie on 01865 580354 to book your place.

## Old Marston library children's bookclub

Due to another Bank Holiday Kate Robinson wants everyone to know that the date of May's meeting has been altered to Mon 13 May at 4.15pm. There will be more origami craft and books about myths and legends. Kate's mob: 07586 478302  
[kate.robinson@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:kate.robinson@oxfordshire.gov.uk)







# Giving Sunday

## Sunday 5th May 8am & 10am

St Nicholas Church needs your help as our financial position has changed recently, so we are encouraging all who worship, attend or have connection with the parish church to review your giving in time, money and prayer which will be different for each person.







## Program for 2024



### Sunday's **Pause for Thought** at St Nicholas Church

Sunday Feb 25th at 6pm  
*What is in a Name: Knowledge and Naming of Birds*  
Rev Prof. Andy Gosler.

Sunday April 28th at 6pm  
*Dyslexia and other Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLDs)*  
*Recognising Problems and Finding Solutions*  
Dr Ginny Stacey (Ross).

Sunday June 23rd at 6pm  
*Landscape and Belonging*  
Dr Peter Williams

Sunday October 27th at 6pm  
*Second Chapter Baking*  
Catherine Paxton

Sunday November 24th at 6pm  
*Wellington, Solider, Statesman & Snob*  
Colonel Nicholas Lipscombe

Starting at 6pm, 40 mins presentation, time for Q&A, with refreshments to conclude. All Welcome!

# A MUSICAL TOUR OF THE BRITISH ISLES



Saturday 18 May 2024 | 7.30 pm  
SJE Arts, Iffley Road, Oxford

Conductor | Mark Jordan

**£25/£15**  
£5 under 25s

Tickets from  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk)  
via the QR code below  
and on the door



Messy Church at St Nicholas, Marston  
Summer 2024

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April  
Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May  
Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July

10 - 11.30am, Church Hall, Elsfield Road  
Crafts, Bible Stories, Singing,  
Prayer, Breakfast

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



## Marston Open Gardens 2024



Marston Open Gardens  
Sunday 9 June 2024 2pm - 5pm

Come and visit beautiful gardens in Marston!

Tickets (£5 each), plants for sale and teas in the Church Hall,  
Elsfield Road  
In aid of St Nicholas Church

For more information contact:

James Lawrie ([jcfs1@btinternet.com](mailto:jcfs1@btinternet.com))





## Delicious Soup Lunch in aid of Christian Aid



Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 12 Noon  
Church Hall, Elsfeld Road

Collection taken on  
behalf of Christian Aid



# GREEN CHURCH

## Programme for 2024

[stnicholasmarston.org.uk](http://stnicholasmarston.org.uk)

Sunday Feb 25<sup>th</sup> 6pm - Talk: What is in a name:  
knowledge & naming of birds. Andy Gosler

Sunday April 21<sup>st</sup> 10am - Short Celtic Service  
followed by help at the Allotments

Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup> 6am - Bird Walk  
followed by breakfast

Sunday June 30<sup>th</sup> 10am - Short Celtic Service  
followed by Wildlife Walk

Sunday Sept 29<sup>th</sup> 10am - Short Celtic Service  
followed by Litter Picking

Outdoor activities are weather permitting  
Short Celtic gatherings will be held in the memorial garden with  
chairs provided.



## Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 6:30pm

# ASCENSION DAY

## Risen Above

Celebration service.  
With Holy Communion, Choir & Hymns.

All are welcome  
Coffee & Cake after the service.



## 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



Marston Community Larder is  
supported  
by Old Marston Charity Trust



## 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](mailto:joskso@yahoo.co.uk)  
or call 01865 202988

## Bellringers' report - April 2024

Easter Sunday saw a quarter peal with 23 method variations, followed by an outing to Imber (6). Located amidst the tracts of army-controlled land of Salisbury Plain, access to this long-forgotten village is rare, but general ringing and a quarter peal were attempted whilst several hundred tourists swarmed the church, one of the only remaining buildings in the deserted landscape.

On Easter Monday, our annual meet with Kirtlington (8) saw a good hour and a half of ringing at their tower with some newer ringers joining us. The afternoon saw another quarter peal take place back in Marston (1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor). The following day it was out to Monks Risborough (6) and Chinnor (6), the former having not been visited since 2004, the latter last seen in 2015. Then on Wednesday, a practice at Bletchingdon (6). Phew!

The handbells made an appearance at the Mortimer Hall community market on 6 April with many people having a go, asking questions and learning more about where we ring them : at events, talks, and on visits to Scout groups. On 7 April the North Oxford Youth Ringers visited the Marston tower.

We were shocked and saddened to hear of the untimely death of former Marston ringer Dr Andrew Dunn, who had been a regular with our band for many years, especially for quarter peal ringing. It seemed only fitting that a quarter peal (34 method variations) was rung in his memory on 7 April. Andy rang 183 quarter peals in Marston.

Roy



We can claim Gift Aid of 25% on any donation up to £30 when you use this QR code.

## Old Marston Parish Council report for April

At the April PC meeting there were no objections to planning applications from 14 Beechey Avenue, 95 Oxford Road and 52 Oxford Road.

Oxfordshire County Council has advised that it will fund cutting of the grass verges once a year; Oxford City Council has agreed to fund a further cutting, making two per year. However, grass cuttings will only be collected from certain pilot areas: the only such area in Old Marston is along Marston Road. The PC does not have the funds to pay for additional cuts and if grass cuttings are not being collected they would clog drains and defeat any objective of increasing biodiversity. The PC is, therefore, looking at how the cuttings can be collected and where they can be taken. A grass cutting and litter picking contractor has now been appointed, so improvements should be seen at the Mortimer Hall Recreation Ground, Boult's Lane Recreation Ground and Elsfeld Road cemetery.

The PC has agreed to fund a survey looking at the speed and volume of traffic, vehicle types and times. This will give a good baseline as to the current traffic situation before any potential developments are built or any low traffic network schemes are installed.

On 6 April the second Community Market, supported by a grant from the PC, was well attended. The next market will be on Sat 6 July .

Parish Councillor Peter Williams held a talk at Bradlands, on Wed 10 April, with refreshments provided by the PC. The subject of the talk was the natural history of Old Marston. There were over 20 people attending, with many asking when the next talk will be. Thank you to Peter for such an interesting and well-presented lecture.

The Annual Parish meeting will be on Mon 20 May at 7pm in Mortimer Hall. This is a legal requirement and entirely separate from the annual PC meeting, which is held a week earlier. Parishioners can come to raise what is an issue for them locally or thank people for a job well done.

The next meeting will be on **Monday 13 May at 7pm** in the 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](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. A complete record of minutes of all PC 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  
Sunday mornings 9-10.30am.....shed.cpf-allotments@gmail.com  
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 7.15pm 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:

OXS RAD 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

Andy Winchester (Treasurer) ..... 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

10 Turn Again Lane, Oxford OX1 1QL.....01865 242918

### 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, Matthew Kennedy.....matthew.kennedy500@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

Bakery: a weekly collection service. Contact [baker@painedmain.co.uk](mailto:baker@painedmain.co.uk)

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 0NP ..... 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

Oxford Reflexology: relaxation, stress-relief and rebalance

www.oxfordreflexology.co.uk.....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

.....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.....taylordannnyuk@yahoo.co.uk

Danny Taylor, 5 Ouseley Close, Marston OX3 0JS.....07796 573319

### Hair and Beauty

Fiona's Hair Salon:

Salford Road, Old Marston OX3 0RX ..... 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.....07710 390980

S. J. Moore: Installation and servicing for all gas appliances.

Gas Safe Reg. 146337.

76, Arlington Drive.....01865 724037, 07970 470176

### 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 June's (print) issue is  
Thursday 16 May**