

St Nicholas, Marston and St Thomas of Canterbury, Elsfield

# MARSTON TIMES

August 2024 [stnicholasmarston.org.uk](http://stnicholasmarston.org.uk) Delivered quarterly Donations welcome

Dear Friends

As I write this, our front garden looks like a building site, as the ground behind the garage is being prepared for our new shed which will be home to the SESI refill area at Marston Eco Hub!

Thank you to all those who have helped us raise money to start the building work. We have reached our target now, which means I am hopeful it will be opened in August with a relaunch. It's all very exciting, so watch this space!

That is not the only excitement at the site: last week we discovered remains of old bottles buried deep in the ground behind the garage. Most of them were broken by the digger, but we managed to carefully remove nine bottles which date from around 1890. I was so intrigued by this discovery: it is fascinating to wonder why they were there. I was finding treasure in what was once clearly the dumping ground for the old Vicarage. What Victorian residents threw away this twenty-first century vicar considered it to be worth her time to dig up, wash, research and place on the windowsill. And I know a few of you will look at the picture of the bottles and wonder why I bothered, but you know what they say: one person's waste is another's treasure!

I was so excited by my find that I wanted to discover what these old pharmacy bottles once held. It was interesting to read the Pond & Extract bottle held a mixture of witch-hazel distillate, alcohol and water - used as aftershave and for everyday complaints like sunburn, and bug bites. The white milk-glass bottles, however, are tooth power bottles.

I realise I could have been reminded of Matthew 6 v 19: *Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. Was all this digging, cleaning and researching the best use of my time? Instead, though, I thought of Deuteronomy 26 v 18: And the Lord has declared today that you are a people for God's treasured possession, as he has promised you..*

Reflecting on the Deuteronomy verse as I was digging, I did wonder if some of you may be in a place where the burdens of the world, or your own circumstances, health restrictions or lack of money feel like layers of soil and earth weighing down on you, burying you deep in the ground, perhaps making you feel unnoticed and unsure if God is even listening to your prayers?

I know I have felt this way, but as I carefully removed the bottles I was reminded we are all God's treasured possessions - treasured because we are unique, one-of-a-kind selves. Our worth and beauty are beyond monetary value; we are gorgeous, precious and most definitely seen and held. We are God's 'possession' (which I know is a word that doesn't always have a comfortable place in today's society), but in this context conveys the image of something extremely valuable or cherished by the owner who is our Creator! We are not to be thrown away or to see ourselves as rubbish!

My beautiful bottles not only connect me to Old Marston's rich history but also serve to remind me of my worth and value in God's eyes.



Blessings, Skye

# 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.

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

### Sunday 4th - Trinity 10

10am - All Together Service with Holy Communion *with Worship band* at St Nicholas Church. **Picnic Lunch at the Vicarage at 12noon (or in the hall if wet). Bring Sandwiches, refreshments, crisps and cake provided.**

6pm - BCP Evensong at St Nicholas Church

### Sunday 11th - Trinity 11

8am BCP Communion Service at St Nicholas Church

10am Holy Communion Service at St Nicholas Church

6pm - BCP Evening Prayer at St Nicholas Church

### Sunday 18th - Trinity 12

8am BCP Communion Service at St Nicholas Church.

10am CW Morning Prayer at St Nicholas Church

### Sunday 25th - Trinity 13

8am BCP Communion Service at St Nicholas Church

10am Holy Communion Service at St Nicholas Church

**6pm Evensong at St Thomas in Elsfeld**



## A Church For Everyone

St Nicholas Church has joined Inclusive Church Network.

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

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

Justine McCool 07426 463119  
Jan Lawrie 01865 250862  
James Plunkett 07507 885169

## What to quote in August?

**August** by John Updike

The sprinkler twirls  
The summer wanes.  
The pavement wears  
Popsicle stains.  
The playground grass  
Is worn to dust.  
The weary swings  
Creak, creak with rust.  
The trees are bored  
With being green.  
Some people leave  
The local scene  
And go to seaside  
Bungalows  
And take off nearly  
All their clothes.

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

Dragonflies reach their peak numbers in August: the migrant hawkler is a common species and can be found hunting in gardens and wooded areas some distance from water. They are fast flying and can catch their insect prey mid-air. Look out for the conspicuous orange-red berries of cuckoo pint (Latin name: *Arum maculatum*). The unusual flower of this plant, which grows in hedgerows and woodlands, has many names including lords-and-ladies and Jack-in-the-pulpit. The



poisonous berries are loved by birds such as blackbirds and thrushes. We say au revoir to the swifts as they start their long journey back to southern Africa.

## What not to cook in August?

### Lime cheesecake

Ingredients

200g ginger biscuits

60g melted butter/marg

500g mascarpone

40g icing sugar

2 limes (zest and juice)

18 cm (7 inch) loose-bottomed tin

Crush biscuits by putting them in a plastic bag and smashing with a rolling pin. Combine with melted butter/marg. Press into bottom of tin. Mix mascarpone, icing sugar together with zest and juice of limes. Beat well.

Pour onto base and refrigerate.



## 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 Tuesday 13 August when we will be making smoothies and then enjoying the fruits of our labour. We welcome new members and your first visit is free. We look forward to seeing you for a fun evening.

**Save the date:** on 14 September we shall be hosting a Cream Tea event in aid of charity. More details to follow. Website: [marstonwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk](mailto:marstonwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk)

## Coffee Pot

Coffee Pot will meet in the Church Hall on Mon 19 August 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.

## Lunch Club

Lunch Club will be on Friday 30 August. All are welcome! Ring Debbie on 01865 580354 to book your place.

## Old Marston library children's bookclub

We are looking for fun-loving volunteers to help with their children's book club. It runs on the first Monday of the month, 4.15-5.15pm, Mortimer Hall, for 7 - 11 year olds. If you would can help, then please get in touch. Phone: 01865 726823

Email: [old.marston@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:old.marston@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## Our Northway & Marston Community Kitchen

is looking for volunteer cooks. Could you spare a few hours on a Wednesday 11am-4pm to help keep our local community kitchen running? We need people to chop veg, wash up and serve. You would also learn how to make a range of dishes from around the world and be able to gain a Hygiene Certificate Level 2. We serve good food on Wed 1pm - 4pm. Free/Pay as you Feel.

[hello@marstoncommunitygardening.org.uk](mailto:hello@marstoncommunitygardening.org.uk)

### Home Library Service

Would you like to borrow library books but are unable to visit the library any reason? The Home Library Service is run from Oxfordshire County Council and serves 900 customers throughout the county.

#### How it works

Contact us to discuss the kind of books (large/regular print) DVDs, audio books on CD, Music CD or DVDs that you like to read or enjoy. We can then arrange for a library volunteer to deliver these to you in your home. Our volunteers are DBS checked, wear an identification badge and provide a helpful, friendly



service. Whenever possible we try and arrange for the same volunteer to visit you each time. Your library materials will be delivered and collected every 3 weeks. The Home Library Service is free of charge and there are no fines for requests or late returns.

#### How to register

To register for this service or for further information telephone the Home Library Service on 01865 810259 or email [homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk).

### Old Marston Charities Trust

This a small local charity that helps the local community by giving small grants to those in extreme need, lacking even basic necessities. The charity started after the Civil War when the king gave a grant of coal to the people of Marston to compensate the parish for the trees which had been cut down during the conflict. Over the centuries it has merged with other local charities and become Old Marston Charities Trust (registered charity number 202785). It derives most of its income from the rent of a local field.

The charity is managed by a committee of volunteers and trustees who meet several times a year. You can find out more about the charity on their web page: <https://www.oldmarston-pc.gov.uk/old-marston-charities-trust/> You can contact us: 01865 203139 or [clerk@oldmarston-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@oldmarston-pc.gov.uk)

### Art Bug Summer Holiday workshops

Just a heads up that there are several fun and educational Art Bug Club Summer Holiday workshops coming up. For the workshops in Old Marston and Jericho, you are invited to sign your child/children up for individual workshops or all 3 sessions. Individual workshops are priced at £15 each or £40 if you purchase all 3 together. Please email me at [catrionadooley74@gmail.com](mailto:catrionadooley74@gmail.com) or call me on 07948 155579 to book.

**5/6/7 August** Matisse workshops 2pm-4pm daily at Jericho Community Centre, 33A Canal St, Oxford OX2 6BQ

**8 August** - Fun paper sculpture making based on David A. Carter's ingenious pop-up book MOVE! 2.30 - 4.30pm Caper Bookshop, 74-77 Magdalen Rd, Oxford, OX4 1RE (details and booking coming soon on website [www.caper.fun](http://www.caper.fun))

**27/28/29 August** - Matisse workshops 2-4pm daily at St. Nicholas Church Hall, Elsfeld Rd, Old Marston, Oxford OX3 0PR






**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

**Oxford Food Hub**  
Sharing surplus, reducing waste



Marston Community Larder is supported by Old Marston Charity Trust

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



# SOCIALS

## for August!

All Welcome



**SUNDAY 4TH AUG 12NOON**  
Picnic & Games at the Vicarage

**FRIDAY 9TH AUG 12NOON**  
Vicky Arms Pub for lunch

**WEDNESDAY 14TH AUG 3PM**  
Oxford Grill, tea & cakes

**THURSDAY 22ND AUG 11AM**  
Bury Knowle Park Cafe, coffee & cakes

Sign up sheet in church or Call Debbie - 580354




Made with Food4NWales.com



**MARSTON WI** 

INSPIRING WOMEN

**Saturday 14th September 2024**

**2-4pm**



**Traditional Afternoon Tea** 

**St Nicholas Church Hall, Marston OX3 0PR**

Books and Puzzles    Crafts and Cards

Lucky Dip    Raffle    Tombola

In aid of SSNAP and WI funds



Supporting sick new-borns and their parents

## Elsfield Players

For one night only



“The Hotel Inspectors”

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August, 7.30pm.  
St Thomas Church, Elsfield.

Tickets £5. Under 14s free.

Reservations  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/elsfieldplayers](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/elsfieldplayers)

THE READING AGENCY

**Summer Reading Challenge 2024**  
Delivered in partnership with libraries

**Marvellous Makers**

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/summer-reading-challenge

Marvellous Makers illustrations by Natelle Quek and logo artwork by Lizzie Everard © The Reading Agency 2024

2024

THE READING AGENCY **Summer Reading Challenge**  
Delivered in partnership with libraries

**Marvellous Makers**

**Cartoon Crazy!**  
Creative games & cartooning session  
for 6 - 11 year olds

**Old Marston Library & Mortimer Hall**  
Monday 5 August, 4:00pm - 5:15pm

Free. Drop-in session

Summer holiday fun!

summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

Illustrations by Natelle Quek. Logo artwork by Lizzie Everard. All © The Reading Agency 2024

THE READING AGENCY Celebrating creativity **CREATE!**

Supported by grants from the ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

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**MONTEVERDI**  
**VESPERS OF 1610**

OXFORD PRO MUSICA SINGERS

SHELDONIAN THEATRE, OXFORD  
SUNDAY 20 OCTOBER 2024 | 5.00PM

OXFORD PRO MUSICA SINGERS  
with  
INSTRUMENTS OF TIME & TRUTH  
MARK JORDAN | CONDUCTOR

£15-£45 (50% off for under 25)  
via the QR code and  
ticketsource.co.uk/oxfordpromusica

QR code

**GREEN CHURCH**  
Programme for 2024

stnicholasmarston.org.uk

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

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

Saturday May 4th 6am - Bird Walk followed by breakfast

Sunday June 30th 10am - Short Celtic Service followed by Wildlife Walk

Sunday Sept 29th 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.

## Bellringers' report - August 2024

Wedding ringing seems to be minimal this year but we were pleased to be able to support at the most rural church in the Branch, Stanton St John (5), when on a most beautiful day, with a packed church, two of our ringers completed the band. These are tricky bells to handle over long periods of time but 25 minutes of sustained ringing was afforded to the happy couple.

The bulk of our ringing recently has been a swathe of quarter peals. Tuesday 11 June saw a 13-method variation rung at Old Marston to mark the 30th anniversary of the first ordination of women as priests, in Salisbury Cathedral on 11 June 1994, with further quarter peals on Sundays 16 and 23 June too. Around the area many ringing sessions having taken place to remember Ron Burgess, Tower Captain at Kidlington, who you will remember in last month's edition has passed away. Across the branch, there have been quarter peals in Horspath, St Giles, Woodstock, and Bicester.

As the summer arrives, we look forward to our summer outing on Saturday 20 July, which sees us head south to Hampstead Norreys (6), Compton Parva (6), and Cholsey (8), all towers with a slightly heavier ringing weight to St Nicholas' so a good challenge for us all. Our outings are always popular and often include a pub lunch, this time at the aptly named The Bell. Watch this space for an update! Perhaps you fancy trying your hand at this hobby and travelling across our beautiful country too. Please get in touch for more information.

Roy



## Donations to St Nicholas church

If you have enjoyed reading this magazine - if any information it gives proves useful to you - please consider making a donation. If you have an attachment to St Nicholas - the ancient centre of our parish - help towards its upkeep would be very much appreciated. 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 July

At the July PC meeting there were planning applications from 43 Arlington Drive, 139A Oxford Road and 52 Oxford Road. The council had concerns about the number of HMOs in the area around 139A Oxford Road and 43 Arlington Drive but no objection to 52 Oxford Road.

Oxford City Council has advised that planning applications from 82 Arlington Drive, 1 Fairfax Avenue, 3 Little Acreage, 95 Oxford Road and 52 Oxford Road have all been approved, while those from 27 Marsh Lane, 44 Arlington Drive and 14 Beechey Avenue were refused. The application for 1A Mill Lane has been withdrawn.

The metal gate to the Mortimer Hall recreation ground has been damaged and is to be taken away for repair.

There has been an instance of vandalism at Boults Lane Recreation Ground. It has been cleared up but please do report any issues you may find to the clerk.

There are two casual vacancies on Old Marston Parish Council. Please contact the clerk (details below) if interested.

Stagecoach is introducing electric double decker buses through Old Marston from September. The overhanging trees in various locations have been cut back: the county council will notify any resident whose trees need attention.

Back Lane was recently cut back but was done too severely. The PC, along with local residents, was dismayed at the severity of the pruning, along with the shredded litter and thorny plant debris that was left scattered along the Lane. The PC is setting up a meeting with the relevant departments of the City and County Councils to see how we can best manage Back Lane in order to avoid this level of damage in the future. We are also looking to set up a Friends of Back Lane group with local residents – details coming soon. The next meeting will be on **Monday 2 Sept 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 ..... marstonwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

## 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 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 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 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

.....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 OJS.....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

