



This time last year, I was visiting British Columbia in Canada. The purpose of my trip was to spend some time in a poetry archive at the University of Victoria library. As such, I did not anticipate having much opportunity to soak up the local atmosphere, although I had been told that Vancouver Island, where the university is located, was a beautiful place. I pictured myself toiling away in a room with no windows, oblivious to what lay outside whatever box file I was rooting through.

To a certain extent, my expectations were met. I did, indeed, spend most of my time in the library, arriving when it opened in the morning and leaving when it shut at night. However, although it was dark when I set off for the university and dark when I arrived back at my accommodation, I also saw more of Victoria than I had imagined I would. The Air BnB where I was staying was an hour and a half's walk away from the university, so I actually spent three hours a day strolling out of doors.

I mostly walked through residential areas, but Greater Victoria, despite only having a population of around 400,000, is spread out over a large area and most of the houses I passed were built on large plots, where there was also an abundance of greenery for me to enjoy. I say 'greenery', but November in Victoria is the



start of the winter, just as it is here, so the trees were not green at all. Most of them were vibrant shades of red, orange and yellow. The air was cold and crisp – except on the one or two days when it rained – and as I travelled in the gloaming at either end of the day, I felt a sense of excitement at the change of the season and wonder at the beauty of it all.

The funny thing is, that, because the seasons in Victoria are much the same as the seasons here, I could have seen all this colour and felt the bite of the coming winter had I stayed

here in Oxford. But if I had been at home, in familiar surroundings, I might not have noticed how magical it seemed. I would probably have taken the whole season for granted. This year, as the trees have exchanged their verdant garments for cloaks of russet and yellow, I have been



surprised to catch myself comparing them favourably to the trees I saw a year ago in Canada. The trip has given me a fresh appreciation for the sights I see every year in Marston and Oxford.

I realise that, just as familiarity blinds me to the



wonder of the world about me, I sometimes also forget the constant presence of God in my life and in creation. Experience tells me that God is very close,

inhabiting the natural world and the people that I meet every day, yet I am not always able to see or appreciate this. Perhaps this is something that other people feel too, and my time away last year has made me realise that occasionally I need to see the old things in a new way.

Now, I am not saying that you must travel to some faraway place in order to change your perspective on familiar things, but I am saying that maybe this is a good time of year to try something new. Try a different method of prayer; read in the morning instead of the evening; watch something new on the television; walk to work by a different route. By refusing to see our routines as set in stone, we may be able to alter the way we see the world and the way we think about our relationships with God. This is my prayer for myself and for you as winter sets in this November.

Joel Denno



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

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

Sunday 3rd - 4th Sunday before Advent

10am - **All Saints All Together service** with Holy Communion at St Nicholas Church. LIVE streamed.

4pm **BENEFICE ALL SOULS SERVICE** - lighting candles for loved ones at St Nicholas Church

6pm - BCP SAID **Evening Prayer** at St Nicholas Church. No hymns.

Sunday 10th - REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

8am BCP Communion Service at St Nicholas Church

9.45am Holy Communion Service at St Nicholas Church.

11am Act of Remembrance outside

Sunday 17th - 2nd Sunday before Advent

8am BCP Communion Service at St Nicholas Church.

10am CW Morning Prayer at St Nicholas Church

10am Messy Church in St Nicholas Church Hall

6pm SCOUT SERVICE at St Nicholas Church

Sunday 24th - Sunday before Advent: Christ the King

8am BCP Communion Service at St Nicholas Church

10am Holy Communion Service at St Nicholas Church LIVE streamed

10am Holy Communion at St Thomas Church in Elsfeld

**6pm Pause for Thought - In the Church Hall. Colonel Nicholas Lipscombe:
'Wellington, Soldier, Statesman & Snob'**

**A Church For
Everyone**

**St Nicholas Church is
an Inclusive Church
Member.**



What to quote in November?

Written in November by John Clare

Autumn, I love thy parting look to view
In cold November's day, so bleak and bare,
When, thy life's dwindled thread worn nearly thro',
With lingering, pottering pace, and head bleached bare,
Thou, like an old man, bidd'st the world adieu.
I love thee well: and often, when a child,
Have roamed the bare brown heath a flower to find;
And in the moss-clad vale, and wood-bank wild
Have cropt the little bell-flowers, pearly blue,
That trembling peep the sheltering bush behind.
When winnowing north-winds cold and bleaky blew,
How have I joy'd, with dithering hands, to find,
Each fading flower; and still how sweet the blast,
Would bleak November's hour restore the joy that's past.

Nature notes: What to see and hear in November?

November is a good month for spotting fungi. You might come across blue roundhead mushrooms (not



edible) as pictured, spotted on the allotments in Marston. Look out for noisy gatherings of jackdaws and rooks around sunset, before they drop down to roost in their favourite tree. As winter approaches bird tables will be getting busier. Make sure to keep any bird feeders clean and well-stocked. If you are tidying your garden, don't forget to leave room for nature: a small log pile, fallen leaves raked into corners will provide a habitat for insects, frogs and toads and even foraging hedgehogs.

What to cook in November?

Butternut squash soup

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion diced
- 1 butternut squash (approx. 1kg/2lb), deseeded and peeled and chopped into 1cm cubes
- 1 large carrot diced
- ½ tsp (or to taste) chilli flakes
- 2 cloves garlic grated or crushed

- 2 cm ginger grated
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 400 ml tin coconut milk
- Juice of ½ lime if you have one

Method

Put the olive oil in a large saucepan and add the diced onion and carrot. Fry on a gentle heat with the lid on for 5 minutes until softened but not brown. Stir occasionally. When the onions and carrot are softened, add the cubed butternut squash, garlic, chilli flakes and ginger and fry on a low heat for 2 minutes. Add the coconut milk, bring to the boil then simmer for 15-20 minutes until the butternut squash is soft. Turn the heat off and add the juice of half a lime and blitz with a blender or food processor until smooth.



WI

Our next WI meeting will be on Tue 12 November at 7.30pm in St Nicholas Church Hall, Elsfeld Road, Old Marston OX3 0PR. To find out more about us look on our website: marstonwi.org New members very welcome.

Coffee Pot

Coffee Pot will meet in the Church Hall on Mon 18 November from 10.30am to 12 noon. We welcome all those who have been bereaved and anyone who would like to meet others. Please contact Eileen Palayiwa on 01865 725423 for more details.

Lunch Club

Lunch Club will be on Fri 29 November. This will be our Christmas lunch because there is no lunch club in December. All are welcome! Ring Debbie on 01865 580354 to book your place.

For anyone who struggles with the New year

New Year

Lunch & Social

2nd January 12:30pm
at Victoria Arms


£5 a ticket for a 3 Course Meal!

MENU
Starter - Veg soup or Pate & toast
Main - Fish & Chips, Pie & Chips or Halloumi & Chips
Desert - Cake or Ice-cream
Coffee and Tea
Everyone receives a gift

The event is sponsored by Victoria Arms & OMCT & organised by St Nicholas Church
MUST Book a ticket - email Debbie - administrator@stnicholasmarston.org.uk or call 01865 580354

VICTORIA ARMS St Nicholas Marston OMCT





St. Nicholas Marston

Messy Church at St Nicholas, Marston
 2024
 Sunday 17th November
 Sunday 15th December
 Sunday 19th January

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!



BENEFICE OF MARSTON & ELSFIELD

ALL SOULS
 Service



COME AND LIGHT A CANDLE FOR YOUR LOVED ONE

MEMORIAL SERVICE
at St Nicholas Church
on Sunday 3rd November at 4pm



ST NICHOLAS CHRISTMAS CHOIR
why not join us?

Would you like to sing in a choir for a special event this Christmas?

This is an
OPEN INVITATION

- to join our choir for our *Nine Lessons and Carols service*
- to participate in two Thursday evening practices in December
- to learn with other supportive singers and the Christmas music for this year
- to take part in a welcoming and diverse choir - no auditions




Dates:
 Thursday 5th December 6.30pm to 8pm
 Thursday 12th December 6.30pm to 8pm
 Sunday 15th December from 4pm
 - practice, refreshments, carol service at 6pm

For more information contact: Neil Barker
musicdirector@stnicholasmarston.org.uk

St Nicholas Church, Elsfield Rd, Marston, Oxford OX3 0PR



Program for 2024



Sunday's Pause or 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, Soldier, Statesman & Snob
Colonel Nicholas Lipscombe

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

HOLY GROUND

Gatherings to mark



the **CELTIC YEAR**

DATES FOR 2024/25. Always starting at 6:30pm

Monday 23rd September 2024 - Autumn Equinox

Thursday 31st October 2024 - Winter Season

Sunday 22nd December 2024 - Winter Solstice

Saturday 1st February 2025 - Spring Season

Wednesday 19th March 2025 - Spring Equinox

Thursday 1st May 2025 - Summer Season

Thursday 19th June 2025 - Summer Solstice

Friday 1st August 2025 - Autumn Season

Meet around a fire pit outside Marston Eco Hub OX3 0PR
Bring something to share, a chair and a blanket if it's cold.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Contact Revd Skye for more info: josko@yahoo.co.uk

Remembrance Sunday

10th November



We will remember them..



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.



The Marston Community Players

Marston Community Players have found it easy to attract young



Marston Community Players present

Nine heads and eight tales

Friday 15th Nov. Saturday 16th Nov.

by Kit Robinson

Friday 15th November, 7.30pm, URC Hall, 352 Marston Road, OX3 0JB

Saturday 16th November, 7.30pm, St Nicholas Church Hall, 4 Elsfield Road, Old Marston, OX3 0PR

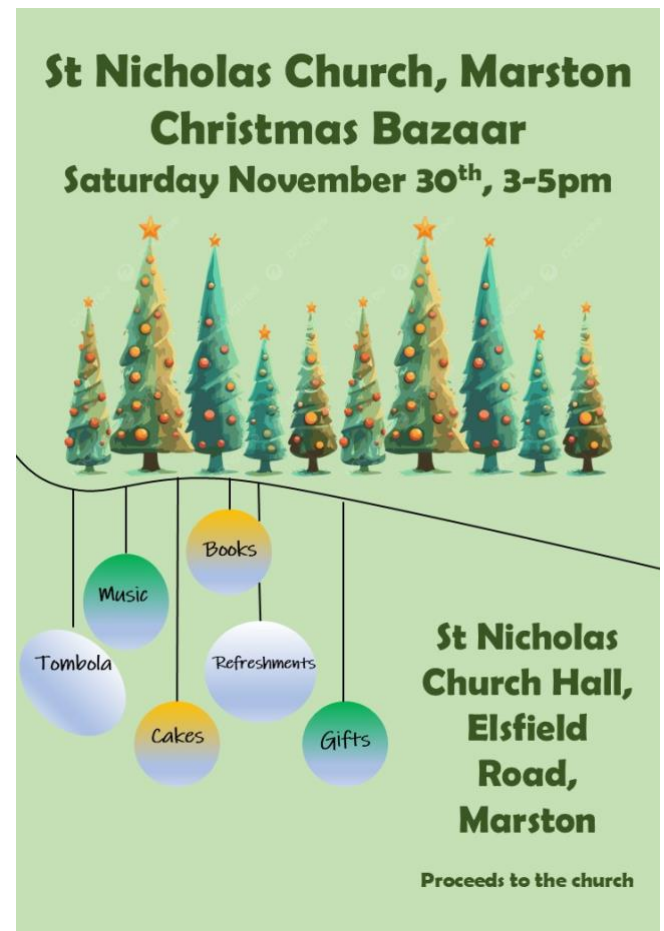
£10 tickets from marstonpanto@gmail.com & on the door (cash only)

Suitable for aged 14+

performers, but much harder to recruit adults. Eight Heads and Nine Tales was conceived of as a piece which might encourage an older generation to try its hand at acting. It is a series of cameos, lightly satirical for the most part, though sometimes elegiac. The first half of the programme plays on situations from the world of education (e.g. a disgruntled teenage schoolboy airs his grievances, a harassed teacher deals with a party of teenagers on a visit to an art gallery), the second half looks at a variety of female characters (a retired actress reminisces, the chairwoman of a parish committee interviews the new vicar, a teenage schoolgirl wants to be a journalist) and the evening ends on a brief fantasy which brings all the cast together for a breakfast show in the studio of Radio Marston. The comedy is universal but the items also play with local references. Some of the pieces are pure talking-head - characters talk directly to the audience. Others oblige the actor to create a sense of other invisible characters on the stage with whom he or she interacts. There are even one or two pieces in which more than one actor makes an appearance. So there is plenty of variety in both form and content. The show is intended as 'total theatre', with musical links and with the stage crew treated as part of the performance.

Bike Doctor

Come and get advice on your bike 1-4pm on the last Saturday of the month at Marston Eco Hub, Old Marston: next date will be 23 November.



St Nicholas Church, Marston
Christmas Bazaar
Saturday November 30th, 3-5pm

Music
Books
Refreshments
Cakes
Gifts
Tombola

**St Nicholas Church Hall,
Elsfield Road,
Marston**

Proceeds to the church

Marston Community Gardening: News:

Northway Together have received funding to continue the running of the Community Kitchen at Northway Community Centre. Our community allotments will continue to provide them with freshly grown crops. Open to all every Wednesday from 1pm - 4pm - for delicious food (free/pay as you feel). They also offer free cooking training - Level 2 Hygiene Certificate.

Up-coming events:

Sat 2 Nov 2pm - 5pm Repair Cafe (see poster below)

Sun 3 Nov 2pm - 5pm Northway Gardening and Arts Cafe at Northway Community Centre. Planting autumn bulbs and making autumn crafts. Free: all welcome!

Sun 10 Nov 10.30am-1pm Marston Forest Garden, Court Place Farm Allotments. Garden and learn about permaculture methods. Share your lunch under the oak tree.

Sun 10 Nov 7.30pm Green Drinks, Red Lion Pub, Old Marston. A social event for all our MCG volunteers and friends. *ALL* welcome!

Sat 16 Nov 2pm - 4pm Croft Road Rec Community Wood Party. Celebrating 5 years since our community planted the wood. *ALL* welcome!

Sun 24 Nov Gardening Together, 2pm - 5pm. Community Allotments, Plots 6 - 8 Court Place Farm Allotments. Seasonal gardening tasks, meet new friends; hot drinks and cake provided.

Bellringers' report

A successful EGM was held at the end of September, allowing our new committee to resolve some governance matters. This has put the ringers in a more stable position for the future. On the downside, the excessive amount of rain at the time caused a leak (now repaired) in the tower roof which may have caused damage to our number three bell: we pray that all will be OK.

On 21 September Hugh and Maarit, our Captain and vice-Tower Captain respectively, were invited to judge at the Bicester branch's striking competition, which was held at our namesake church in Islip. On 5 October Old Marston ringers headed to St John the Baptist, Shottesbrooke, for the Guild's six-bell striking competition: a stunning location next to the Tudor mansion and overlooking the estate's lake.

Several notable quarter peals have been rung in Marston recently. Our friend, Heather Horner, from South Leigh completed her mission to ring a quarter peal on every bell at Marston, and at the start of September, we rang two in one day – in the morning for the Harvest Festival service, and later for Evensong. This month's question is about our ropes. If you've ever visited the tower or seen them on TV, you'll note their interesting appearance. Ropes are often made from flax, hemp and polyester. They must be able to stand a lot of wear and tear because they will turn and twist thousands, maybe even millions of times throughout the year. Usually, they are 40ft long with a three-foot long, colourful, fluffy woollen part at the floor end: this is called the sally and helps a ringer grip the rope.



Fancy seeing the tower ropes? Get in touch. There may even be a few biscuits

or cake available!

Roy

Repair Café Sat 2 November 2 - 5pm

REPAIR CAFE
OXFORDSHIRE

Saturday 2nd November 2024
14.00 - 17.00
St Nicholas Church Hall
Elsfield Road
MARSTON
Oxford OX3 0PR

Marston Community Gardening

Do you have items in need of repair? E.g. electrical, electronic or mechanical repairs. Sewing/darning. Also, knives, garden shears in need of sharpening. Volunteers will help & show you how to fix them & save them from ending up in landfill. FREE. Donations welcome! Tea & cake too!

Book your time: use QR code - >
or
Email: repairmarston@gmail.com

Old Marston Parish Council report for October

At the October PC meeting there were planning applications from 19A Oxford Road, 26 Raymund Road and 44 Arlington Drive. The council did not have concerns with any of these applications.

OC Council has approved applications from 5 Haynes Road, 32B Oxford Road and 139A Oxford Road, while those from 9 Gordon Close, 7 Beechey Avenue and 52 Oxford Road were refused.

The PC is considering taking on the maintenance of Back Lane. Being a bridleway, it is currently the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council but no work has been done there for several years. A public meeting was held in the Roy Garner Pavilion, where the majority consensus was that the PC talk to the County Council about a future maintenance program. There have been complaints about the X3 bus route. Parish Councillor Mary James, who is the council's representative on the county public transport forum, will bring the concerns to the next meeting on the 19 November.

There has been an unusual amount of rainfall recently. Several areas in and around the parish have experienced heavy flooding. The PC will be contacting the County Council and other agencies to ensure action is taken to try and prevent future issues.

The next PC meeting will be on Mon 4 November 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

For information and agendas go to 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>

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 financial 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.

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 Vlad07919 493580
Secretary Christine Mitchell07789 991051

Baby and Toddler Club Weds 9.30-11.30 term time in Parish Hall
Helen Norman.....07852 213974

Bellringers:
Practice Friday 7.15pm Learners welcome
Hugh Deam, Tower Captain01865 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 Close01865 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 9.30-12.30pm01865 726823

Hedena Health Medical Centre.01865 597023

Marston Community Gardening
Alistair Morris01865 724081
Kate Robinson01865 766620

Marston Saints Football Club
Andy Winchester (Treasurer)www.msfc.org.uk

Mortimer Hall (Village Hall)
Chris Crane, 2 Raymund Road01865 727995

Oxford City Council (Marston Representatives)
Mary Clarkson, 8 Dunstan Road, Oxford OX3 9BY01865 751493
Alistair Morris, 55 Arlington Drive, Oxford OX3 OSJ.....07804 847285

Oxfordshire County Council (Marston Representative)
Mark Lygo07765 665 726

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

Parentline
Confidential helpline for parents01865 726600

Parish Council
Parish Clerk: Tim Cann, 8 Nicholas Avenue.....01865 203139
(Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 9.00 am – 1.00 pm)
Chairman: Duncan Hatfield07706 998224

Pre-school at Mortimer Hall
open 9 sessions a week07818 236348

Royal British Legion Club Hall:
Steward01865 243991

Schools
Friends of St Nicholas School01865 242838

Scouts — 43rd Oxford (St. Nicholas) Scout Group, Boults Lane
Group Scout Leader, Tim Greaves..... tim.greaves@keble.oxon.org
Beaver Scout Leader, Sue Springett01865 251515
Cub Scout Leader, Matthew Kennedy.....matthew.kennedy500@gmail.com
Scouts Leader, Linda Phillips07804 925705

St. Nicholas Church Hall and Committee Room
Debbie Bailey, Parish Office01865 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 Close07979 756918

Bakery: a weekly collection service. Contact 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 ONP01865 742842
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 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

Decorating
Kerr-Brown painting/decorating hkbdecorating@gmail.com 07944605502

Electricians
Brian Turner: Registered NICEIC domestic installer.....01865 728729
All work guaranteed 33, Salford Road07538 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.
Appointments07742 964282

Funeral Directors
C S Boswell Independent funeral services.....01865 553737
Homewood Funerals (Family-owned and managed)
14 Cherwell Drive, Marston OX3 4LY01865 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 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.....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

