



I'm not sure I'm ready for September yet. Ready for the summer and all its bounty to begin its waning and shifting into longer expanses of darkness. Ready for school restarting and the hustle and bustle of returning routines and busy roads. But seasons change and the time of active growth is slowing down and the darker days of winter and reflection are beckoning.



Where do you find yourself right now? Has your summer been good and you feel ready to jump into a new academic year? Perhaps you have a late holiday planned to look forward to, or a special event in the near distant

future to draw you onwards and upwards. Or perhaps summer wasn't great and this new month brings a possible change? I sit in a place of excitement and uncertainty. New things are beginning for me with new adventures starting and new people joining our ministry team. Matty will begin a placement with us for the next two years and the start of his journey with us is marked on 7 September with a shared lunch after the service. Do join us and say hello.

Matty will, I'm sure, bring new energy and insight into our ministry team. Other changes are more daunting, as I begin to read and write for my qualifying course in Group Analysis. For these to happen I needed to make room for the change and growth within me. Which meant I have handed over a few of my roles and stepped down from positions. This wasn't easy and I needed to rely on God for wisdom and strength, hence why being here at the start of September feels too soon, the end of one cycle and the beginning of another.

September, within the Anglican church, brings us into the Season of Creation and it starts on 1 September. This is a time when we renew our relationship with our Creator God - and all creation - through celebration and appreciation of the gifts of nature and the beauty of our world. We consider how God created the world

and continues to sustain everything in it. We also think about how humanity, being tasked to live in harmonious relationship with our planet, should see itself as brothers and sisters, rather than stewards, of the earth. We don't rule over the earth and we don't own her and the earth doesn't exist for what we can get out of her. We are told to respect her, nurture her and live in a way that brings life in abundance. At this change in the seasons we consider what sort of a job we are doing and what we need to do to make things better.

This changing season reminds us that the harvest is being gathered, which includes the seeds, grains and fruits of the earth but also space to think about our lives. A useful exercise you can do at this time of year is to make a gratitude list of everything you are thankful for as a way of reaping your inner harvest. It



can be a time to look at the choices you are making, to look at your resources, income and how you use your energy and

the way you spend our time and ask: is this the best use of it? It's a time to observe, follow and be inspired by nature: giving precious space to be still, to listen and reflect on the world around us, as the trees begin to lose their vibrant colour and fall to the ground. Let us pray..

God in the harvest, giver of life, giving the corn ripeness, producing a hundred seeds from one, give abundance to my life, give my heart a great harvest.

God in the falling leaves, taking away that which once brought life, now needing to go, give me the heart to let go of all that is over, when the season of its life has come to an end.

God who gives, God who takes away, always for the benefit of the ongoing cycle of life, physical and spiritual, I give myself to you, I set myself in the Divine flow of life. Amen

Love Skye

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
Every Wednesday at 9:30am we have Holy Communion, and Thursdays at 5pm Evening Prayer at St Nicholas Church.

Sunday 7th - Trinity 12

10am - **All Together service** with Holy Communion *with the Worship band* at St Nicholas Church. **LIVE streamed.** **Matty Fearon** on a long term placement will start his time with us today! The service will be followed by a shared Lunch in the hall so come and say hello to Matty.

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

Sunday 14th - Trinity 13

8am BCP Communion Service at St Nicholas Church

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

Sunday 21st - Trinity 14

8am BCP Communion Service at St Nicholas Church.

10am Holy Communion Service at St Nicholas Church

10am Messy Church in St Nicholas Church Hall

6:30pm Celtic Gathering outside the Vicarage

Sunday 28th - Trinity 15

8am BCP Communion Service at St Nicholas Church

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

10am HARVEST FESTIVAL at St Thomas Church in Elsfeld

A Church For Everyone

St Nicholas Church has joined Inclusive Church Network.



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

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

What to quote in September?

Hello September by Richard Tipping

Goodbye August,
Thank you for the summer,
Autumns coming, hi September,
Could be viewed a bumper
Schools return and colleges,
And back to work for all,
Spring and summer gone,
September always starts the fall.
Increasing traffic on the roads,
Now holidays are done,
The shops displays already plan,
For christmastime to come.
New students go to uni,
To enjoy their student lives,
And as the nights get darker ,
There are now less evening drives.
Look forward to the fireworks,
Halloween before November,
But let's not wish our lives away,
Say hello to September!

Nature notes: What to see and hear in September?

Berries abound in September: deep red haws, rosehips, purple sloes and shiny blackberries. The berry glut is a feast for birds, butterflies and mammals (as well as humans!). Look out for jays, colourful members of the corvid family, gathering acorns to cache. Many cached acorns are left in the ground and grow into oak trees. More summer migrants head off this month, including swallows, which travel to



southern Africa, crossing the Sahara Desert. They cover around 200 miles a day on their incredible 6,000 mile journey. Before leaving,

they stock up on insects and can be seen swooping over the river Cherwell and surrounding meadows.

What to cook in September?

Blackberry jam

Go for a walk and pick some blackberries! When you get home weigh and rinse the blackberries and put them in a pan. The blackberries should come half way up the pan and no more. Add the equivalent of $\frac{3}{4}$ pint water to every pound of blackberries (700ml water per 500g berries). Bring the blackberries to a boil and simmer until the fruit is very soft. At least 20 minutes. This releases the pectin, which is what sets the jam. Stir from time to time to prevent burning. Allow to cool. Place a metal sieve over a large basin and strain the fruit into it. Leave it dripping overnight and squash as much pulp as possible through the sieve. If the basin gets too full pour the liquid into the pan and keep

squashing the rest. When you have squashed enough put the fruit pulp and juice back in the pan. Calculate how much pulp and juice you have (or measure it if you need to) and add 350g to 500g sugar to every litre of fruit. Bring to a rolling boil and boil for 7 to 9 minutes. Allow to cool and pour into sterilized jam jars. Keep in the fridge and use within 8 weeks.



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, 9 September. Our speaker will be Christian McGuinness and he will be demonstrating CPR. Some of us will be able to try using it on a life size doll. Tea and cake will be served after the talk. New members are always welcome. Find out more about us on our website: marstonwi.org Your first visit is free and there will be a small charge for the next two if you attend as a visitor.

On Saturday 20 September from 3pm we shall be hosting a cream tea in St Nicholas Church Hall. Proceeds will go to support Marston Court residential home. This is a popular event, so don't miss out!

Coffee Pot

Our next Coffee Pot will be on 15 September from 10.30am to 12 noon in the Church Hall. We welcome all who have been bereaved and others who would like to meet more people. For more details please contact Eileen Palayiwa on 01865 725423.

Lunch Club

The next meeting of Lunch Club will be held on Fri 26 September: Cottage pie and vegetables, followed by apple sponge and custard. If you would like a place, please contact Debbie on 01865 580354 to book.

New deliverers for Marston Times needed!

We are looking for people to deliver the printed Marston Times four times each year (in March, June, September and December). Copies are printed, bundled up and set out in church for collection in the preceding month. Please contact Colin Harris: colingharris31@gmail.com



Introducing Matthew Fearon...



Matty was born in Abergavenny to Scouse Catholic parents sometime last century. His journey to becoming an Anglican ordinand took in the well-worn path of commercial litigation in Moscow, cricket journalism in India, newspaper hackery in London, Christian apologetics in the heart of Oxford, recovery work in local prisons and comms work for a Baptist charity. Matty will be at St Nick's for pretty much the next two years while he studies Theology, Ministry and Mission at Sarum College in Salisbury. Matty is married to Christabel, the brains of the operation, and is dad to three daughters: Amaryllis (11, from his first marriage), Florence (4 in August) and Rowan (2). And not forgetting two cats, Nacho Daedalus and Flannery, Rosie the hamster and an assortment of fish who are tired of being ignored when it comes to the listing of pets. When not ordinanding, being a dad or being a husband, Matty likes to make time to sleep or eat, whichever feels most necessary in the moment. Come to our All Together service on 7 September for a proper introduction!

Community Gardening - come enjoy the autumn!

First Sunday of the month, Northway Community Centre, 2pm - 5pm; 2nd Sunday of the month, Marston Forest Garden - Court Place Farm Allotments, 10.30am - 1pm. Bring lunch to share under the oak. Last Sunday of the month, 2 - 5pm Gardening Together at Court Place Farm Community Allotment: all welcome!

St. Nicholas Marston
Messy Church at St Nicholas, Marston
2025

Sunday 20th July
Sunday 21st September
Sunday 19th October
Sunday 16th November
Sunday 21st December

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

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

FREE!
Messy Church

Loaves & Fishes
MARSTON
COMMUNITY LARDER

Along with a few essential items there will be fresh produce from Oxford Food Hub.

Sharing surplus, reducing waste

OMCT Marston Community Larder is supported by Old Marston Charity Trust

THE GIVING GARAGE
Marston Eco Hub - OX3 0PR
OPEN SATURDAYS 9-11am

Pick up or drop off FREE plant pots, vases, mugs, ket tles and other garden/ household items, and **BORROW** garden equipment (rakes & spades, ladders, strimmers, wheelbarrows, lawn mowers, leaf blowers, apple press & picker, bikerack etc).

Further details email Revd Skye: joskso@yahoo.co.uk or call 01865 202988

HOLY GROUND



Gatherings
to mark

the CELTIC
YEAR

DATES FOR 2025/26. Always starting at 6:30pm
Sunday 21st September 2025 - Autumn Equinox
Friday 31st October 2025 - Winter Season
Sunday 21st December 2025 - Winter Solstice
Monday 2nd February 2026 - Spring Season
Sunday 22nd March 2026 - Spring Equinox
Friday 1st May 2026 - Summer Season
Sunday 21st June 2026 - Summer Solstice
Saturday 1st August 2026 - 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: joskso@yahoo.co.uk

OM PC

AUTUMN FUN DAY

CRAFTS & FOOD

SATURDAY 25th Oct

10am - 1pm

FACE PAINTING & GAMES

PUMPKIN CARVING

At Marston Eco Hub & Parish Hall
Elsfield Road, OX3 0PR

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

St Nicholas Marston

Come & celebrate



Harvest Festival

All Together Service

5th of October at 10am

Bring along packets, jars & tins of food
for the **Community Larder** at the Giving Garage

**Service for
All AGES**

Bring & Share Lunch
at 12noon in the
Church Hall



September news from Wild Oxfordshire

The Evenlode Catchment Partnership (ECP) is a dynamic collaboration of over 20 organisations and countless individuals, united by a shared commitment to improving the water environments within the Evenlode catchment which covers the northwest of Oxfordshire. Since our establishment in 2014, the ECP has been dedicated to enhancing water quality, improving flood management, enriching biodiversity, and fostering greater community engagement with our rivers.

Changes in land management and river engineering have had a big impact on our wildlife and biodiversity. Natural flood meadow habitat is rare in the Evenlode catchment, due to changes to arable farming and past dredging activities, whilst weirs and other barriers block the passage of fish and reduce their access to spawning grounds.

As temperatures rise with climate change in the UK, extreme rainfall days are likely to increase. Recent large-scale flood events in the Cotswolds hit the national headlines, but behind the scenes the ECP delivered one of the first effective lowland NFM projects, demonstrating that NFM on a landscape scale works! Following Storm Bert (Nov 2024) our NFM interventions prevented flooding for all 12 homes at risk in Milton-under-Wychwood.

In 2018, natural flood management measures were installed on a farm above Milton-under-Wychwood to



reduce flood risk in the village below. The first photo shows a group of people standing in the bottom of a

field bund on 24 October 2024. The second photo shows the same field bund in action on 25 November 2024, following Storm Bert. The water is around 2m deep at its maximum and the bund is holding back around 1700m³ flood water. On this occasion, the



houses along the Littlestock Brook in Milton-under-Wychwood did not flood.

Through regular monitoring of our NFM scheme on the Littlestock Brook, it has been thrilling to learn that not only does this project reduce flooding, but it brings multiple benefits including increased biodiversity.

Find out more by watching our videos and exploring our website at www.evenlodecatchment.org.uk

Want to improve your Social Life?

Then come along to our New Members' Pub Night at The Red Lion, Old Marston, on Tuesday 16th September at 7:30pm. **Oxfordshire IVC Social Club** invites you to come and find out what we offer as an all-inclusive, non-profit making, social club. All are welcome. We are a friendly group who enjoy Theatre, Group Walks, Pub Trips, Games Evenings, Book Club, Eating Out and much more. Join Chris & Bobbie in the bar. Please let Chris know you are coming so we can look out for you 07763340136.

<https://www.oxfordshireivc.org.uk/>

Group Starting this Autumn

What happens when the leaves begin to fall? 🤔



Are you about to retire or are you struggling with retirement?

Do you find the change exciting or daunting?

Join our safe and supportive discussion group led by a qualified Group Analyst to explore issues around retirement.

When?

10 Monday afternoons starting 28th September 3:30 to 5:00 pm

Where?

St Nicholas, Old Marston OX3 0PR

Cost?

£10 per session, or £90 for all 10

To register or for more information contact: Helga Disney

Email: mariaadual231@gmail.com

Phone: 07948 538614

Please contact Helga if you are interested but can't make Monday afternoons.



BACH

MAGNIFICAT

HÄNDEL

DIXIT DOMINUS



Sunday 19 October
6.00 pm

SHELDONIAN THEATRE

Oxford Pro Musica Singers
Instruments of Time & Truth

Conductor | Mark Jordan

Tickets
£15-£45

50% discount for under 25s
available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/oxfordpromusica
via the QR code or on the door



Winter bird food on OPT fields

Oxford Preservation Trust owns 150 acres of land in Marston, acquired to preserve the rural character of the old village. In 2024 our tenants planted a crop of Winter Bird Seed in our arable fields on either side of the Marston Ferry Road.

The summer display of flowers was enjoyed by residents and walkers – and the rich winter seed crop by a wide variety of birds. Between November and April local birdwatchers recorded at least 28 types of bird, including several species which are in decline nationally, such as the Yellowhammer. Six species of Finches were noted, with around 1800 Linnets recorded on one day alone, one of the highest counts in Oxford since records began.



The Winter Bird Seed crop is now in its second year. The fields will look less spectacular than last year but will still provide a good habitat for birds and invertebrates. The local birdwatching group, led by Steve Jennings and

Tom Evans, will keep us updated on what they see. We're very grateful to them and look forward to their findings, which we'll be happy to share with you.

Anna Eavis
Chief Executive
Oxford Preservation Trust

Old Marston Parish Council report

There was no PC meeting in August. However, Oxford City Council informed the PC that the planning application from 4 Rylands has been approved.

As many of you will know, the Hill View Farm development has started. Neither the clerk, residents, city or county councillors were made aware of this. The clerk contacted planning enforcement at OCC who said that as far as they are aware no planning regulations had been broken. There are numerous complaints about speeding and dangerous driving by construction vehicles, as well as potential damage to walls and foundations along the route, which have all been passed onto planning enforcement. The construction plan specifies that vehicles must use Oxford Road to access Mill Lane. There was no consultation on this. County highways refused access to the site via the bypass. Our city and county councillors are also chasing up complaints.

There have some incidents of arson in the Orchard Triangle with the fire brigade attending. The tree stump by the seat was set on fire, resulting a partial collapse of the stump and damage to the seat.

The PC now has a new contractor for grass cutting and the cemetery and recreational grounds are being cut regularly. Future maintenance of the Orchard Triangle is being reviewed.

The next PC meeting will be on Mon 1 September at 7pm.

Please note that the parish clerk's telephone number is changing. The old land line number has been disconnected and there is a new mobile number: 07341 758889

The clerk, Tim Cann, can be contacted by phone 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, WhatsApp, X or BlueSky. 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.



theWI | **MARSTON WI**
INSPIRING WOMEN | Website: marstonwi.org

Saturday
20th September 2025

2-4pm

Afternoon Tea

St Nicholas Church Hall,
Marston OX3 0PR

Raffle | Crafts and Cards
Books and Puzzles

In aid of:
Marston Court Care Home
and WI funds

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
Kate Robinson07483 011488

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.....07341 758889
(Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 9.00 am – 1.00 pm)
Chairman: Duncan Hatfield07706998224

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.org

Trade Directory

Architectural services for Planning Permissions/ Building Regulations
Digby Architectural: 4 Broughton Close07979 756918

Building/Builders Services
Colin Simpson: High Class painting, decorating and coving etc:
10 Dent's Close OX3 0NP01865 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 07944 605502
Dog grooming service in Old Marston village.....07877 183281

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

Oxfordshire Foot Clinic: We provide fast & efficient foot treatments,
including nail cutting and corn/callus removal. We visit you at home.
Appointments07742 964282

Pedilicious Foot Care: treatment following initial medical consultation,
including foot soak, toe nails trimmed, corns and calluses removed, half leg
and foot massage. Contact Patricia Anson (with almost 40 years of
experience)01865 200963 or 07881 366350

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.....taylordannyyuk@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



**Copy deadline for December's (print)
issue is Thursday 13 November**