

St Nicholas, Marston and St Thomas of Canterbury, Elsfield

MARSTON TIMES

July 2021 stnicholasmarston.org.uk Donations welcome

As I write this I sit in my warm office with the window open; the odd fly is buzzing about and it's another hot day, so I've taken my clerical shirt off and my gaze gently drifts across the front garden to the refill station...

So much has happened since last September when we started the refill station and I can't believe how far the dream of Marston Eco Hub has already developed. I'm grateful to Jane Patten, who has made this possible by offering her skills, experience and time with SESI. In partnership with Marston Community Gardeners we have managed, I think, to create a little shared space for people: they can come, swap plants and seeds, re-fill their bottles from a growing range of products and sit on the grass or on our decorated logs, designed by Emma Moreton.



The Hub started because I wanted to offer something practical to help us, as a community, to be more caring of our planet. I'm never going to be able to write a book or give up everything and live in a tent in the woods: as tempting as this sounds, I like my shower and I'm not sure the vicar can do that. However, I knew setting up the Eco Hub and sharing our space was a doable first step which would help me turn good intentions into actions.

This is all just the beginning; we still have plans to grow further, with workshops, book swaps, and opening the Giving Garage. Our first Eco Market is happening on 18 July. Dreams are good - we all

need them, but most of the time we need to depend on and work with others to make them into a shared reality. Together we can pool our gifts and insights; I think that's what excites me most about community projects like the Eco Hub (which, by the way, is simply the space in front of our Vicarage). We become more aware of our neighbours and our community and in return we get a shared sense of connection. Each month someone will have a new idea: another may want to develop an existing project further. It's exciting to watch and it's exciting to be part of.



With this in mind I reflect on a Bible passage that we studied a few weeks ago - Mark, Chapter 4 verses 26-44 - that talks about seeds. Jesus gave two parables, stories about seeds. One is about growing seeds, the type you simply plant/scatter and let them do their own thing. The seed grows into plants that are harvested when the time is ready. The second story is about the mustard seed, a tiny, insignificant seed, which grows into a large tree that provides shelter for birds in its shade.

We have dreams, new hobbies and projects that may appear at the moment still in their seed form. Give them time to grow, be patient with yourself and others. With time, prayer and faith, they will grow and you will see what you have achieved. The second parable teaches us that from small humble beginnings big things can happen if we give them to the Creator (to God) and to our community. We don't own these seeds but together we become part of the branches that can offer others shade and 'a place to be'.

Skye



JULY 2021

Here at St Nicholas, we will be offering a mixture of online and in-person services. All the details can be found on our website - stnicholasmarston.org.uk or you can call Alison at the parish office on 01865 580354.

Wednesday 9:30am Holy Communion in-person services at St Nicholas Church
Thursday 8:30pm Compline online will continue on LIVE Facebook

Sunday 4th July

9am Short Communion Service at St Nicholas Church. The service is **LIVE streamed straight onto YouTube***. Restrictions in place. Please book a place**

10:30am **Green Church - led by Andy Gosler**. Starts with prayer at the Memorial Garden and ends with tea & coffee in Marston Eco Hub (Vicarage)

Sunday 11th July

8am BCP Communion Service, in-person Service at St Nicholas Church

10am Holy Communion in-person Service at St Nicholas Church. The service is **LIVE streamed straight onto YouTube**. Restrictions in place. Please book a place

Sunday 18th July

8am BCP Communion Service, in-person Service at St Nicholas Church
The service is **LIVE streamed straight onto YouTube**.

NEW to St Nicholas Church 4pm FELLOWSHIP AND PRAISE at the Vicarage.
Outside service with singing & end with tea and coffee in Marston Eco Hub.

Sunday 25th July (*restrictions might be lifted*)

8am BCP Communion Service, in-person Service at St Nicholas Church

10am Holy Communion in-person Service at St Nicholas Church with Jnr Choir.
The service is **LIVE streamed straight onto YouTube**.

10am Matins in-person Service at **St Thomas Church (Elsfield)** *with singing (if we can)*
LIVE streamed onto Facebook

* All services that are LIVE streamed can be found on YouTube - St Nicholas Church, Marston Oxford.

** Please book using Eventbrite or contact Alison 580354.

COFFEE POT

We are still hoping to hold a simple Coffee Pot on 26th July from 10.30am- 12noon but this will depend on restrictions in place at the time. We will give announcements in church but if you are in any doubt please contact Eileen during the week beginning 19th July (01865 725423 or Eileen.palayiwa@yahoo.com)

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The W.I. does not yet have a date for our next meeting but will keep members and interested parties informed! We look forward to meeting up in the near future.

ST NICHOLAS' NEW ADMINISTRATOR

Alison Gray writes: I was born and brought up in Cookham, Berkshire. After A-levels I headed north to Liverpool University, gaining a degree, PhD and teaching certificate in Biology. This was followed by teaching secondary school science, 6 years in Cheshire and 5 years in Ghana. On returning to UK in 1994 I worked for various health-related charities in volunteer training and information provision. Initially in the HIV sector (including a stint at the Terrence Higgins Trust) and then breast cancer (including Breakthrough Breast Cancer and Breast Cancer Care).



2008 took me back closer to Cookham as my elderly parents needed more support. As the saying goes, God works in a mysterious way and I became the

Parish Administrator for the Benefice of the Cookhams in 2009. By 2017 both Mum and Dad had died, as had a beloved aunt, so time for another move, which brought me to Oxfordshire. And now Parish Administrator here in Old Marston.

I live with my rescue ex-racing greyhound Jenny. My leisure interests include singing and cooking (especially baking). The latter is usually accompanied by BBC Radio 4 or 4 Extra.

Email: administrator@stnicholasmarston.org.uk

Tel: 01865 580354

My office hours are:

Mon: 10am – 1pm

Tues: 10am – 2pm

Thurs: 10am – 1pm

Vicar

Revd Skye Denno 202988

Churchwardens

Judith Piggott 764693; Eileen Palayiwa 725423

James Plunket 358170; Justine McCool 358578



NATURE NOTES

July is peak butterfly month. Ones you may spot are peacock, red admiral, gatekeeper, and small & large white. You can often find butterflies on buddleia (it's known as the butterfly bush) attracted by its fragrant honey-scented nectar. It's easy to forget that butterflies, and moths, are important pollinators. Hedgerow flowers this month include hogweed (large creamy-white umbrella-shaped flowers, popular with insects), yellow ragwort and teasel, the seeds of which are a favourite of goldfinches in winter. Keep a dish of shallow water topped up for the birds and place stones in it for insects to rest on and re-hydrate.



Summer evening by John Clare

The frog half fearful jumps across the path,
And little mouse that leaves its hole at eve
Nimbles with timid dread beneath the swath;
My rustling steps awhile their joys deceive,
Till past, and then the cricket sings more strong,
And grasshoppers in merry moods still wear
The short night weary with their fretting song.
Up from behind the molehill jumps the hare,
Cheat of his chosen bed, and from the bank
The yellowhammer flutters in short fears
From off its nest hid in the grasses rank,
And drops again when no more noise it hears.
Thus nature's human link and endless thrall,
Proud man, still seems the enemy of all.



All welcome to our first ever Marston community

ECO MARKET

Sunday 18th July

11:30am-3:30pm

**Bring cash
and card**

At Marston Eco Hub
Marston Vicarage
Old Marston
Elsfield Road
OX3 0PR

**Outdoor
event**

A curated event with all
things good for People and Planet

FEATURING: Upcycled furniture, eco-friendly paints, handmade cards and other crafts, enamelware, vegan & veggie bakes, Indian snacks, bulk food refills, preserves, zero-waste household items, and swap stalls for clothes, books, plants and crops!

<https://stnicholasmarston.org.uk/>
<https://marstoncommunitygardening.wordpress.com/>

A RECIPE FOR JULY

No Churn Easy Ice Cream

Ingredients

300 gm condensed milk

300 ml double cream

300 gm crushed strawberries or raspberries



Method

Whip cream until it holds firm peaks.

Fold in condensed milk until well blended.

Carefully fold in strawberries/raspberries.

Spoon into 8 ramekins or freezable containers.

Cover with cling film and place in freezer for 8 hours minimum. Take out of freezer for 10 mins before serving.

Lemon alternative

Replace berries with finely grated lemon rind and 6 tblsps of good quality lemon curd.

LOVE MARSTON LOVE LIFE

Love Marston Love Life is coming back. After being postponed we are now planning for this big community event to take place on Sunday 5 September at 3pm in Mortimer Hall Park. It will be a great time for the local community to come together and celebrate.

As on previous occasions there will be a platform programme featuring music, choirs, storytelling, interviews and a speaker. There will be stalls featuring local community groups, bouncy castles, food vans, refreshment tent and much more. To book a stall space please contact Alison Gray administrator@stnicholasmarston.org.uk

For further information please contact:

To book a stall space, please contact Alison administrator@stnicholasmarston.org.uk

For further information please contact:

Neil Barker music4stnicholas@gmail.com or

Geoff Hale geoff@geoff-hale.com

Please put this special date in your diaries and make this event known to friends and family.

NEWS FROM DIVYA SHANTHI MISSION SUPPORT

Divya Shanthi in Bangalore seeks to serve the poorest of the poor, running a school, churches, boarding homes and other community programs. Covid has brought many disruptions to their work, including challenges with virtual schooling, Covid outbreaks and helping give vaccinations.

Divya Shanthi Mission Support (DSMS) is a very small UK charity supporting Divya Shanthi. We'll be raising money for Divya Shanthi at several upcoming events:

Love Marston, Love Life:

Sunday 5 September, 3pm - 5pm

Christmas Bazaar:

Saturday 4 December, 10am - 12noon

We are always very grateful for donations, whether as a one-off or on a regular basis. Many of our supporters choose to sponsor a child or young person at Divya Shanthi, receiving letters and updates over the years. You can find out more at

www.dsms.org.uk and facebook.com/dsmscharity

HOLIDAY CLUB FUN DAY

This year, our holiday club at St Nicholas will be on the August Bank Holiday Monday, with songs, stories and drama in the morning and games and crafts in the afternoon. For more details, see the St Nicholas Facebook page in August.

ST NICHOLAS BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

...is now open again on Wednesday mornings in term time from 10am - 11.30am. Most of our activities are out of doors at the moment. Do join us for a friendly morning with refreshments, toys and activities.

THE MARSTON TIMES IS BACK

This is our first new-look Marston Times, which we plan to circulate in hard copy form in March, June, September and December each year to the whole parish. There will be no charge but donations are always welcome. If you are involved in a local group and would like more people to know about it, please send us your copy. Any items for publication in September's issue should be sent to by 19 August via marstontimes@gmail.com.

In other months of the year the Marston Messenger can be found on the St Nicholas website; printed copies will be available in St Nicholas church.



LOVE MARSTON LOVE LIFE



Sunday 5th September 2021
at 3pm to 5pm
Mortimer Hall Park

Calling all community group and local clubs

Community groups and local clubs in the Marston and Northway areas are invited to staff a 'stall' to advertise and make known to the community what is available. Space will be allocated on the first come first served basis.

This will be a part of a free community event organised by churches in Marston and Northway, involving a stage show from 3pm – 4pm and then other activities from 4pm – 5pm. Bouncy castles, refreshments and different stalls will be provided throughout the afternoon.

If you think your group would like to be involved, or you would like more information please contact:

administrator@stnicholasmartson.org.uk,

lovemarstonlovelife.wordpress.com

St. Nicholas Marston

GREEN CHURCH

Outdoor services of gentle reconnection with our roots

On the First Sunday of the month

Meet at 10:30 in the Memorial Garden of St Nicholas Church for welcome and prayer, guided community creation-care activities, and coffee at the Marston Eco Hub (Vicarage OX3 0PR)

More details on our church website at <https://stnicholasmarston.org.uk/>

Blessing Boxes

St. Nicholas Marston In partnership with **St Nicholas' Primary School**

We need shoe boxes and gift bags which we will fill with toiletry items such as:

- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Deodorants
- Shampoos
- Shower gel
- Bubble bath
- Pull up nappies
- Sanitary towels
- Washing detergent

These boxes and bags will then be distributed to local families

Please drop off donations at the font in St Nicholas church (OX3 0PR)

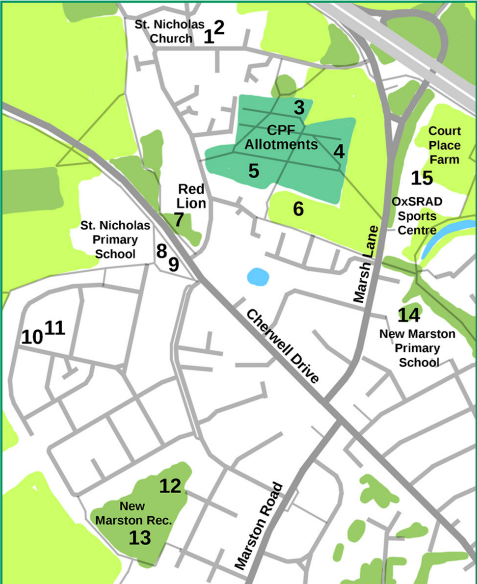


Marston Community Gardening

Join us most weekends Everyone is welcome

Here are our key projects:

- 1. Giving Garage**
For anyone to donate their gardening equipment to be re-used by others. Building and repair projects are based here.
- 2. SESI Refill Station**
Located behind the Giving Garage at Old Marston Vicarage this is an on-going stockist of common, 'green' household cleaning products available at cost price.
- 3. Community Chickens**
Based at Court Place Farm Allotments. Our community free-range chickens have been rescued from battery farms and eggs will soon be available at the SESI refill station.
- 4. Forest Garden**
Also based at Court Place Farm Allotments, our Forest Garden folks are creating an edible perennial polyculture system for an abundance of fruit, nuts and veg so that we can learn how to grow together and share our future harvests.
- 5. Community Allotments**
All kinds of fruit and vegetables are grown here communally and shared for free with the local community. Come and join in or take on your own patch in a supportive environment.
- 6. Boults Lane Sports Meadow**
Hedge and wildflower border, planted to increase bio-diversity, which requires on-going maintenance.
- 7. Mortimer Playground Wildflowers**
Located inside the railings, alongside the under-pass, these wildflowers need protecting and will be only mowed once a year at the end of the season, after flowering and seeding.
- 8. Orchard Triangle**
Apple, pear, plum, cherry and fig trees which are free for anyone to pick and enjoy. (Planted by the school children of St. Nick's, October 2018)
- 9. Wildflower Meadow**
A border along the outside edge of Orchard Triangle, to encourage biodiversity, pollinating insects and mental well-being.
- 10. Sharing shed**
For the free loan of items that rarely get used, but are very useful on occasions such as a dehumidifier, lawn mower, etc...
- 11. Community E-Car Club**
We are promoting the use of a community-owned electric vehicle to reduce pollution and traffic.
- 12. New Marston Community Wood**
800 native trees were planted at New Marston Rec by the local community. Ongoing maintenance to clear base of trees of grass, to mulch, replace missing guards and stakes. (Planted November 2019)
- 13. New Marston Community Orchard**
Also at New Marston Rec, a selection of fruit trees grown as espaliers, along the fence-line. Freely available fruit can be picked at chest or head height. (Planted March 2021)
- 14. New Marston Primary School Copse**
Newly planted trees and raised vegetable beds for the children, staff and parents to relax, learn about nature and grow their own food. (Planted by the school children, November 2019)
- 15. Court Place Farm Community Wood**
500 native trees planted on the bunds around the sports pitches. Planted by local residents to increase bio-diversity and alleviate flooding. On-going tree care and maintenance required. (Planted November 2020)



Working in partnership with CPF allotments and St Nicholas Church.
Supported by Old Marston Parish Council, Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, CAG Oxfordshire and B&Q.

Email: hello@marstoncommunitygardening.org.uk
Facebook: [MarstonCommunityGardening](https://www.facebook.com/MarstonCommunityGardening)
Twitter: [MarstonCommuni1](https://twitter.com/MarstonCommuni1)

Marston people growing together **A community project to benefit all**

Parish Organisations

Allotments Associations

Court Place Farm, Boults Lane. Secretary: Mr. T. Cann
 Sunday mornings 8.30 am – 11.00 am 01865 202104
 Mill Lane Chairman: Dr. M. Unkovskaya 07771 702548
 Treasurer Dana Vlad 07919 493580
 Secretary Christine Mitchell 07789 991051

Baby and Toddler Club

Gill Hale, 64 Arlington Drive 01865 248260

Bellringers:

Practice Friday 7.30pm Learners welcome
 Anthony Hughes, 2, Oxford Road 01865 244570

Choirs and Musicians at St Nicholas

Junior Choir, SATB Choir, Music Group
 Practices at various times.
 Neil Barker 01865 604617 or 07774 050056

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)

Tuesday 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm 5.30 pm to 7.00 pm
 Thursday 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm 5.30 pm to 7.00 pm
 Friday 10.00 am to 12.00 noon. 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm
 Saturday 9.30 am to 12.30 pm 01865 726823

Hedena Health Medical Centre. 01865 227788

Marston Community Gardening

Alistair Morris 01865 724081
 Kate Robinson 01865 766620

Marston Saints Football Club

John Page. www.msfc.org.uk

Mortimer Hall (Village Hall)

Chris Crane, 2 Raymund Road 01865 727995

Over 50s Club

Alternate Mondays, 2.30 pm in Church Hall.
 Secretary, Jane Madden 01865 209086

Oxford City Council (Marston Representatives)

Mary Clarkson, 8 Dunstan Road, Oxford OX3 9BY 01865 751493
 Mick Haines, 3 Croft Road 01865 421600

Oxfordshire County Council (Marston Representative)

Mark Lygo 07765 665 726

Oxford Preservation Trust, Marston Area

Lucy Hughes, Cross Farm. 01865 244570

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, Rachel Vallance vallance.whanau@gmail.com
 Scouts Leader, Linda Phillips 07804 925705

St. Nicholas Church Hall and Committee Room

Alison Edwards, Parish Office 01865 580354

Women's Institute

Second Tuesday in month, 7.30 pm in Church Hall.
 President, Sue Hawes 01865 247106
 Secretary, Mavis Curtis 01865 351325

Trade Directory

Airport transfers

MJM Airport transfers 07983 225474

Architectural services for Planning Permissions/ Building Regulations

Digby Architectural: 4 Broughton Close 07979 756918

Building/Builders Services

Lemarsh Building Services – plumbing and heating

22 Marsh Lane 01865 761896, 07484 274331

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

Frances Valentine: Reflexologist – massage to reflex points in feet

for relaxation, stress-relief and re-balance 07726 312719

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

6 Clays Close, Marston OX3 ONX enquiries@craigholloway.co.uk

Elderly wellbeing

ElWell: Helping people to stay independent. Mobility, balance, home adaptations, managing memory loss, nutrition and social connections.

Home visits www.el-well.com 01865 238185

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

D L Hancock Ltd (Independent family-run firm)

Personal 24 hour service 7 days a week. 01865 767780

126 London Road, Headington OX3 9ED www.dlhancock.co.uk.

Homewood Funerals (Family-owned and managed)

14 Cherwell Drive, Marston OX3 4LY 01865 570000

Hair and Beauty

Fiona's Hair Salon:

Salford Road, Old Marston OX3 0RX 01865 241632

Handyman, decorator, carpenter, general builder; Marston based and

excellent references; call Joe 07784 884116

Monumental Mason

Reeves Memorials: New memorials, removal for burials, added inscriptions & renovations.

147A Magdalen Rd, Oxford. OX4 1RL 01865 251231

Pharmacy

Northway Pharmacy: 2 Cherwell Drive, OX3 0LY. 01865 763706

Marston Pharmacy: 11 Old Marston Road 01865 243824

Plumbing, Heating & Gas

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

Gas Safe Reg. 146337.

76, Arlington Drive. 01865 724037, 07970 470176

Andrew Job Plumbing & Heating Ltd:

Gas Safe Registered Engineer 125206 .. 01865 761896, 07710 390980

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

Yoga class on Wed evenings 7-8.30 in St Nic's Parish Hall

Jackie jackieyogafflow@gmail.com or 07747 070111

Copy deadline for September's issue is
 Thursday 19 August