

Marston Moreteyne Parish Council

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

December 2020

Remembrance Sunday & Centenary of the War Memorial 2021

The Parish Council thanks all those who marked Remembrance Sunday on the doorstep and at the War Memorial. Next year, in March 2021, will be the centenary of the War Memorial being unveiled. Details of how we intend to mark that key anniversary will be announced early in the New Year.

Cllr Hugh Roberts

Chairman

Marston Moreteyne Parish Council

Poppy Appeal

This year the poppy appeal in the village was rather low key due to the restrictions that Coronavirus created. We were visible in most of the village shops and I held a stall in my gateway, but the weather caused that to be infrequent. Anyway, thanks to the generosity of our parishioners we managed to raise £1422.16 much lower than we usually achieve. This money will be used to help our ex service personnel if they become of need, so a big thank you to everyone for your help.

John Clarke

Poppy Appeal Organiser for Marston Moreteyne





Poppies Laid

by Carol Carter



Poppies laid

For bravery and love, each flower a splash of blood

For lives lost that were cherished

Their sacrifice made so we go forward

But they stay where they perished.

Poppies laid

With hope for the future, for our children

Theirs sadly may never be known

Remembrance each year at the garden

In our village, gratitude is shown.

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

New Councillor

At the last Parish Council meeting on the 17th November, we appointed a new councillor to fill the vacancy. We are pleased to welcome Jeannette Little as that new member of the Council. Many residents will know Jeannette for her work in the community and as founder of the Marston Against Crime Group.

Highways

We had a response from the Highways Authority regarding the replacement acoustic panels on the A421. Whilst we were pleased to see that the work was scheduled to take place, we were disappointed with the timeline and will try to find a way to have this brought forward.

Bottle Bank

The Bottle Bank at Howes Drive will be relocated during the week beginning 7th December to the new parking area recently created at the end of Bedford Road.

Moat Farm Close update

Central Bedfordshire Council has advised the Parish Council that they are in a position to look into the concerns raised by residents in relation to odours from the Pump Station in the Moat Farm Close area and are asking residents to contact them by emailing pollution@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk if they are experiencing a problem so that they can ask them to complete a record of the times and duration of the odour.

Road Closure

Bedford Borough Council have a closure of the old A421 (C94) at Green Lane, Stewartby from 4th – 31st January for resurfacing and developer works. The closure is for 50m either side of Green Lane. This will obviously affect some residents as it is a very busy route. The diversion will be along the new A421.

Christmas

Covid-19: As the Prime Minister has said - "Tis the season to be jolly but also to be jolly careful " At the time of writing Covid-19 cases are rising in Central Bedfordshire, Bedford Borough and Luton and this is very worrying. So, for all our sakes, please observe the Covid-19 advice on hygiene, masks, and social distancing. Be jolly but be jolly careful !

Residents will see that the Christmas Tree has been erected in the centre of Marston and on behalf of the Parish Council. A big thank you goes to Lamps & Tubes Illuminations who have provided the tree lights free of charge to the village this year. I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas and hope that next year will see us all move forward beyond what has been a very difficult time.

Cllr Hugh Roberts

Chairman, Marston Moreteyne Parish Council



Marston Moreteyne Allotments

For Allotments this is the quietest time of the year so it is ideal to put your thinking caps on to get ahead and plan what you will be growing when and where. The where is probably the most important as growing the same crops in the same patch can cause a lot of problems, namely soil nutrient deficiency, plus applying crop rotation prevents specific build-up of pests and diseases in the ground.

A three-year rotation plan is the easiest and best arrangement for most allotments as it allows adequate growing areas for each section although a four-year plan can be applied but this will reduce the growing area for each type of crop. An example of a classic three-year rotation plan is outlined below.

Year one potatoes can be planted in Section/bed one, Legumes, onions, and root vegetables in Section/bed two and Brassicas in Section/bed three.

Year two the crops are rotated with Section /bed one planted with Legumes, onions, and root vegetables. Section/bed two planted with Brassicas and Section/bed three planted with potatoes.

Year three the rotation continues with Brassicas in Section/bed one, potatoes in Section/bed two and Legumes, onions, and root vegetables in Section/bed three.

There are some exceptions to these rules with asparagus and rhubarb are perennial and cannot be moved around yearly and courgettes, cucumbers, squashes, runner beans and sweet corn are rather more flexible so can be fitted in where you can.

Hopefully all the planning will get you in the mood for the new growing season and spur you on to deciding on the varieties you want to grow.

Parish Council Meetings

Parish Council meetings and committee meetings continue to be held virtually. Agendas are available to be viewed on the council's website: <https://marstonmoreteyne-pc.gov.uk/> 3 days before the meeting.

The next meetings will be held on:

Tuesday 5 th Jan	7.00pm	Planning & Environment Committee
	8.00pm	Finance & General Purposes Committee
Tuesday 19 th Jan	7.00pm	Planning & Environment Committee
	7.30pm	Full Council

Audit of Parish Council Accounts

The Parish Council's accounts are subject to two audits each year. The internal audit was carried out during June by an independent Internal Auditor who assesses that relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation have been undertaken during the financial year. The second audit is carried out by an external auditor: BDO LLP. The Parish Council has received a Notice of Conclusion of Audit which will be available to view on the council's website.



**Vale
Community
Church**

Leaving a trace of Jesus everywhere we go



Dear Village,

This has certainly been a very different year from what we would have been expecting last January. As a church fellowship we do trust that in the strangeness you have not lost hope nor found life unbearable!

Do know that you have been thought of and prayed for street by street, in our daily devotions.

Our online Carol Service can be viewed from 4.00pm Sunday 20th Dec. We would love you to join us as we listen to traditional readings and join in the singing of Carols. We will also have a service on Christmas Day 10.30am, but no service on Sunday 27th Dec.

YouTube channel: valecommunitychurch - for online services – which can be accessed after the above mentioned times.

Facebook: valecommunitychurch

Our morning devotional is available for anyone from our Facebook page: valecommunitychurch.

Our Minister Steve Gaunt, the leadership team and resources are available to you at any time –

Website: www.valecc.org.uk - for all you need to know about Vale Community Church



Stay well, stay safe and may the peace of God rest upon you and your families.



Christmas Out and About!



St Mary's invites you to celebrate Christmas with us in some different ways this year.

Look out: for our Travelling Crib which will be visiting families, the schools, and Village Green Care Home throughout December. Spot the figures of Mary, Joseph and, of course, the donkey as they wander the streets of Marston looking for 'room at the inn'. Take a photo and post it to our face-book page: www.facebook.com/StMarysMarston/

Look about: our beautiful church and churchyard. This year we hope to have more Christmas lights than ever before - inside and out!

And do celebrate Christmas with us: While our usual opening hours are 10.00 till 3.00 every day, on Christmas Eve you are invited to come between 2.00 and 4.00 to see our cribs, enjoy some music, light a candle or write a prayer. There will be a small gift available for children and the opportunity to have your photo taken with our crib. We'd love to welcome you.

For up to date information about all our Christmas services, in church and on-line, sign up to our digital newsletter via: linktr.ee/stmarysmarston

If you would like to speak to someone or for more information, please contact Revd Kate McFarlane: 07816 790447 or email curate@stmarysmarston.org

Revd. Kate McFarlane