



# Marston Murmurs

The Newsletter of Your Marston Parish Council Dec 2025 / Jan 2026

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*Marston Parish Council*

*Wishes You All  
A Very Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy New Year*

## A word from the editor,

It's hard to believe we have reached the last edition of 2025 and the festive season is upon us.



It is a time to reflect on the past year and to be grateful for the good times and to think ahead to the new year and all that may bring to us. Many of us have lost loved ones and the season can be hard to be positive about but even in sorrow Christmas is a time of hope. Whatever your beliefs, the Christmas lights, Carols and general feeling of good cheer, we hope will brighten the season for you.

Looking forward to the New Year and thinking of the tradition of ‘first footing’, which was always done in our house growing up. This involved the first-footer entering through the front door. Tradition held that no one spoke until the ‘first-footer’ wished the occupants a happy new year. Ideally, the first-footer would come bearing traditional gifts: coin, a lump of coal, a piece of bread or shortbread, whiskey and salt—representing financial prosperity, warmth, food, good cheer, and flavour in the new year. Once inside, the first-footer would be led through the clean home to place the coal on the fire and offer a toast to the house and all who lived there. The first-footer would leave through the back door and take all the old year’s troubles and sorrows.

One custom in days gone by, was to hook a pancake on one of a cow’s horns, then sing and dance around the unsuspecting bovine. If the cake fell off in front of the cow, it foretold good luck, if behind, bad. (Of course, I have to imagine not getting gored by a ticked-off cow would signal good luck.)



WASSAILING THE COW.

Just wishing everyone a Happy New year will do for me!



The last Coffee Morning of this year will be on 16<sup>th</sup> December and all are welcome to join us for festive fun. We will be serving hot drinks and festive treats. Having a festive raffle (donations of festive gifts please) and enjoying some old-fashioned fun.

Coffee Mornings will resume again in the New Year on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

Chair Exercise Class will finish on the 17<sup>th</sup> December and for those wishing to kick start losing the festive pounds gained, will resume on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026. All welcome to join the classes which are fun and suitable for all abilities.



# Ward Councillor Report Sept - Oct 25 - Marbury

## Key Updates

### Planning

Planning & Enforcement - A complaint has been raised on behalf of all Parishes across Marbury regarding delays in planning enforcement. This was submitted to the Chief Exec in October, acknowledged and we are currently awaiting a response. Delays regarding a growing list of enforcements across the ward continue with residents becoming increasingly concerned as projects /developments continue without planning permission.



Petition: Witton Street (Northwich) resurfacing - Petition presented to full council last month. This issue will now be referred to Scrutiny committee. Having received well over a thousand signatures from local residents, this issue has now been picked up by both the Northwich and Chester Press.

[cheshirewestconservatives.org.uk/news](http://cheshirewestconservatives.org.uk/news)

### Your Marbury Ward Councillors



Lynn Gibbon



Norman Wright



Phil Marshall

Contact details on the back page.

## Marston Remembrance Service 9<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Took place at the war memorial in the Churchyard.

Service led by Rev. David Grey, Philip Hayes, Tony Hayes and members of Marston Parish Council.

Thank you to everyone who came together to remember.

Lest We Forget.



The Marston Lads website has been updated and includes all the details of the village men and women who gave their lives in the two world wars and how we remember them. Also visit Marston Armistice 2025 on You Tube.





## Great Budworth School News

Hello everyone,

It has been a wonderfully busy time in school recently, with both children and staff taking part in a range of charity and awareness events — and beginning to prepare for Christmas too!

We enjoyed a cosy Pyjama Day for Children in Need, and everyone joined in with Odd Socks Day to celebrate how unique and individual we all are.

As we head into December, school life becomes even more lively. Alongside our everyday learning, the children are looking forward to an ice-skating trip, a play centre trip for the younger ones, and of course our nativity performances.

We are also excited to welcome visitors to our Christmas-themed School Open Morning on Wednesday 3rd December. Please share the date with family and friends who may be looking for a nursery or primary school place — we would love to show them around.

School will close for the Christmas break on Thursday 19th December, giving everyone time for family fun and a well-earned rest. We reopen on Monday 5th January.



We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

School pupils recently took part in Children in Need Day

Well done everyone.

Dear friends,

As we enter the season of Advent and look toward Christmas, we are once again invited to pause, breathe, and behold the wonder of God's love among us. The Christmas story—so familiar, yet always fresh—reminds us that God is, indeed, a God of surprises.



No one in Bethlehem expected the Messiah to arrive in the quiet darkness of night, born not in a palace but in a stable. No one expected the angel's message to come to Mary, a young woman from an ordinary town. No one expected shepherds—people on the very edges of society—to be the first to hear the good news. And no one expected that God's great rescue plan for the world would begin with a newborn child, wrapped in cloths and laid in a manger.

At Christmas we are reminded that God delights in working in unexpected places and through unexpected people. The God who chose a humble stable continues to step into the ordinary corners of our lives: the kitchen table, the quiet moments, the places where we feel overlooked, weary, or unsure. And often, God's gifts arrive not with grand fanfare but in gentle, surprising ways—through a word of kindness, an act of generosity, a moment of peace amid turmoil, or a renewed sense of hope just when we need it most.

**For some, however, Christmas can feel heavy rather than joyful.** We may be carrying grief, loneliness, anxiety, or memories that make this season difficult. If this is where you find yourself, know that you are not alone. The good news of Christmas is that Christ comes precisely into the places that feel dark or fragile. The God who surprised the world with hope in a manger still draws near to us with compassion, understanding, and light that no darkness can overcome. My prayer is that you may sense God's gentle presence with you this Christmas, bringing comfort, strength, and the promise that brighter days will come.

This year, as we journey through Advent and celebrate the birth of Christ, may we keep our hearts open to the surprising ways God may be at work in us and around us. Perhaps we might encounter Christ in someone we did not expect. Perhaps we might experience grace in a situation we thought could not change. Perhaps God may grow new hope in a place we thought was barren.

Wishing you a blessed Advent and a peaceful Christmas from all at St Mary's.

Christina



## December @ St Mary's

Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion  
Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> 1.30pm Great Budworth School Christingle  
7pm in the Lady Chapel Advent Compline  
Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> 8am Holy Communion  
10.30 All Age Toy Service  
Wed 10<sup>th</sup> 10.30 Craft and Natter  
Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> 1.30 Praise and Play  
7pm Advent Compline  
Sun 14<sup>th</sup> 10.30 Holy Communion  
6.30 Carol Service @ St Mary's Chapel Arley with Village Voices  
followed by refreshments  
Tues 16<sup>th</sup> 7pm Equali Concert  
Tues 17<sup>th</sup> 6pm Joint School Christmas Service  
Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> 10am Cransley Carol Service 7pm Compline for Advent  
Sun 21<sup>st</sup> 8am Holy Communion 10.30 Parish Communion  
4pm Carol Service with Village Voices followed by sherry and mince  
pies  
Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> 4pm Crib and Christingle 11.30 Midnight Communion

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> 8am Holy Communion 10.30 Family Communion  
Sun 28<sup>th</sup> 10.30 Parish Communion

## January

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> 8am Holy Communion 10.30 All Age Celebration of Epiphany – the arrival of the Wise Men  
Wed 7<sup>th</sup> 10.30 Holy Communion  
Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> 7pm Celtic Evening Prayer to mark the start of the year  
Sun 11<sup>th</sup> 10.30 Plough Sunday 3pm Cheshire Plough Service  
Chester Cathedral

## Village Voices

If you would like to join Village Voices, the rehearsals are 28<sup>th</sup> November and 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December from 6pm to 7pm. For more details contact Pauline or Joyce Kirkpatrick on 01565 733200

## Community Advice

Spread the word. 🗣️ €

Over-60s can get a bowl of soup, a bread roll and unlimited tea/coffee for just £1 at any Asda café until February 2026.

The deal's valid from opening time until café closing, any day of the week, and there's no minimum spend or other purchase required. ❤️



Last Mobile Library date of the year 9<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2.55pm – 3.40pm at Ashwood Park.

**As the mornings and evenings are getting darker**, do you avoid walking your dog, going for a run or heading out alone?

Stay safe with the Hollie Guard app - simply shake your phone to raise an alert. It instantly shares your live location, video and audio evidence with your chosen key contact, who can call emergency services if needed.

With multiple smart safety features, the app is designed to give you peace of mind wherever you are.

Download the app today from the app store.

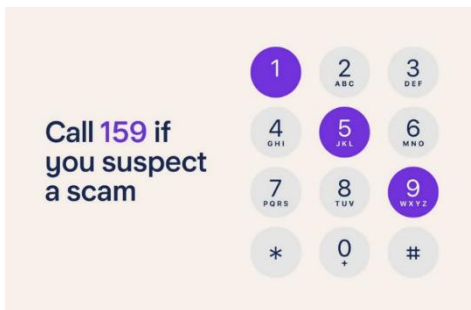
Download Hollie Guard - Hollie Guard



## Dog Fouling and Nuisance Barking

We have received reports of dog fouling on pavements, verges and green areas, please, if you walk your dog, be responsible and pick up after your dog. It is illegal to leave your dog's poo in a public area.

There have also been complaints about dogs being left to bark for prolonged periods of time, sometimes at unsocial hours. Please consider the effect of this on neighbours.



Are you aware of the **159** number that you can use to call your bank?

If you are called by your bank and unsure if it is a real call, put the phone down and call **159** where you will get an automated message asking who your bank is.

For example, it's Natwest then just say " Natwest" and this will put you straight through to your bank securely.

Similar if at a cash machine and the machine eats your card then call 159 and get the card stopped. This is just in case it has been skimmed. This is a great useful number that will help prevent fraud. Remember if ending a call with suspected scammers please make sure the line is clear before you ring 159 as scammers often leave the line open. Banks or the Police will NEVER ask for your pin number or money over the phone, If this happens call 159 and report it direct to the bank straight away.

A poster for an opera event. The background is dark red with a subtle pattern. At the top, the text 'TINA & FRIENDS' is written in a large, gold, serif font. Below it, 'bring you....' is in a smaller, gold, cursive font. The word 'OPERA' is in a large, gold, serif font, followed by '& More...' in a smaller, gold, cursive font. The main text reads 'An Evening of Well-known Arias plus Live Music performed by Local Talented Musicians' in a white, serif font. On the left, a white circle contains the text 'Tickets £10'. Below it, 'Tea, Coffee & Biscuits. included' is written in a white, cursive font. On the right, 'BYO Drinks, Glasses, Snacks' is written in a white, cursive font. In the center, there is a gold and black ornate opera mask resting on a piano keyboard. A single gold musical note is positioned to the right of the mask. At the bottom, the date and time 'Date: Sat 17th Jan | Time: 7pm |' are followed by the venue 'Venue: Marston Village Hall, Marston Nr Northwich'. The ticket availability information 'Tickets Available at 07743372078' is at the bottom in a white, serif font. A small URL 'made with PosterMyWall.com' is visible in the bottom left corner of the poster.

# Christmas Quiz

1. Which country first decorated Christmas trees?
2. What is the most fragrant real Christmas tree?
3. Which animal carried Mary before she gave birth to Jesus?
4. What's the name of the period leading up to Christmas?
5. What is the name of the shortest day of the year?
6. What is traditionally hidden inside a Christmas pudding?
7. What is the name of a male turkey?
8. Stollen is a famous cake from which country?
9. In what year was the Queen's speech first televised?

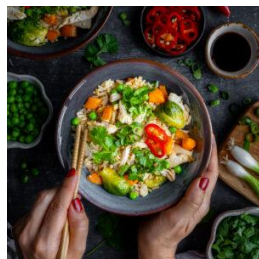


10. According to the song, what do you deck the halls with?
11. What sauce is traditionally served with Christmas pudding?
12. Which film features the song '*Walking in the Air*'?
13. In which US state would you find the town Santa Claus?
14. What famous character appears in the Asda Christmas advert 2025?
15. How many times does the number 1 appear on an Advent calendar with 24 doors?
16. What is the most recorded Christmas song in history?

# Leftover Turkey Fried Rice

Got leftover roast turkey? Turn it into this delicious Leftover Turkey Fried Rice in just 15 minutes! (And if you've got leftover veggies, ham or even leftover pigs in blankets, you can throw them in too!)

- 1 tablespoons olive oil
- 500 g cooked long grain white rice (I use 2 x Tesco Long Grain Microwave Rice – see Note 1)
- 300-500 g leftover cooked turkey shredded
- 100 g frozen peas
- 200 g leftover Christmas vegetables (e.g. carrots, brussels sprouts – see Note 2)
- 2 large eggs beaten
- 1 tablespoons sesame oil
- 1 tablespoons soy sauce (or GF tamari)
- 2 spring onions sliced finely (plus extra for garnish)
- Fresh coriander, chopped spring onions and/or sliced red chillies to garnish



1. Put the olive oil in a large frying pan or wok and heat over a medium-high heat for 1 minute.
2. Add the cooked rice, shredded turkey, frozen peas, leftover Christmas veggies. Stir fry for 3 minutes.
3. Meanwhile crack the eggs into a large mug or small jug and whisk together lightly with a fork. Make a well in the middle of the rice mixture and pour in the eggs – cook for 45 seconds, then mix the rice mixture and eggs together.
4. Continue frying for 2 minutes, stirring occasionally, until you start to get some nice crispy brown bits.
5. Stir through the soy sauce, sesame oil and spring onions and turn off the heat.
6. Serve scattered with coriander, chopped spring onions and/or sliced red chillies

## December Garden

### Winter frost

Check your winter protection structures are still securely in place

Check that greenhouse heaters are working

Insulate outdoor taps and prevent ponds from freezing

Prune open-grown apples and pears (but not those trained against walls)

Prune acers, birches and vines before Christmas to avoid bleeding

Harvest leeks, parsnips, winter cabbage, sprouts and remaining root crops

Deciduous trees and shrubs can still be planted and transplanted

Take hardwood cuttings

Keep mice away from stored produce

Reduce watering of houseplants





The Chair Exercise Class is 10am on Wednesdays,  
Please join us for fun exercise which can be done by all ages and abilities.  
£5 per class.

1. Riga, Latvia in 1510
2. Balsam Fir
3. A donkey
4. Advent
5. Winter solstice
6. Silver coins
7. Gobblers
8. Germany
9. 1957
10. Boughs of holly
11. Brandy sauce
12. The Snowman
13. Indiana
14. The Grinch
15. 13 times
16. Silent Night

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**Your Contributions and ideas are welcomed!** Please send to the editor or any one of the councillors or even give us a ring.

## Useful Contacts.

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Phil Marshall	07917171438	<a href="mailto:phil.marshall@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk">phil.marshall@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk</a>

The Church Hall on Ollershaw Lane is a great place for parties, band practice or events and activities. To hire contact Angie.

Hall costs just £10 per hour to hire.

Angie Kemmett	07977920445
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