



Marston Murmurs

The Newsletter of Your Marston Parish Council

Dec21/Jan22



Christmas has a long history in the UK, but we have the Victorians to thank for many of our most loved festive traditions, including sending cards and decorating Christmas trees. In fact, before the 19th Century, Christmas was barely celebrated in Britain.

Today, it is common to see a twinkling Christmas tree and natural decorations such as holly, ivy and mistletoe in British homes.

Lord of Misrule is a historic figure who was central to British Christmas celebrations until the Puritans managed to ban the festive season in the 17th century. The Lord of Misrule was an elected individual who was charged with coordinating the seasonal revels of the Tudor court and in houses of nobility across the kingdom until Twelfth Night. At that time, the festive period saw servants and the poor given food boxes, and there was much drunkenness and celebrating. The concept of misrule celebrated this annual reversal of traditional social groups. In Scotland, the Abbot of Unreason played a similar role.

Much of our understanding of a merrie old English Christmas has more to do with the writings of Charles Dickens or Washington Irving than our real medieval ancestors. For the early Victorians, Christmas was an antiquated curiosity, but one that the English bourgeoisie were beginning to remember. Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* is more an idealised romance based on his own childhood memory rather than a chronicle of

what was happening at the time. But when the Victorians did rediscover Christmas, they couldn't stop themselves and soon we had Christmas cards, crackers and the sense that Christmas was a time for family, and, as Tiny Tim observed: "God bless us, everyone."



Marston Parish Council
would like to wish everyone a
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year



Next Parish Council Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 12th January 2022 at 7pm in the Church Hall.

A full risk assessment will be conducted beforehand ensuring that current government guidelines are followed, and we ask that any member of the public wishing to attend contact our clerk at clerk@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk for information.

Heritage Fingerpost, latest news

The fingerpost is almost complete.

The Arley Hall arm is being removed as it was an add on and there is a brown sign close by, it is being replaced with an arm directing road users down into Northwich via Marston Lane. The removal of the arm will mean that the height of the post will be reduced keeping it in line with other posts in the region, which are generally shorter than ours.

The contractor is hoping to reinstall the fingerpost sometime in February 2022. We look forward to its return.

Neighbourhood Plan

Help us develop our Neighbourhood Plan.

We don't need anyone with any formal training just a willingness to get involved and help formulate a vision for what and how you see our village developing over the next few years.

If you are interested then please get in touch via info@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk

Quiz

1. When the Trotters became millionaires at the auction, who fainted first?
2. Which character has been in control of Empire Entertainment since 2015?
3. What was Boon, before he became a despatch rider?
4. Who starred as Edna, the Inebriate Woman?
5. Who played the title role in Dear John: USA?
6. Which larger than life actor played Danny McGlone in Tutti Frutti?
7. Name the original title of The Phil Silvers Show starring the character Bilko?
8. Which female comic duo formed part of the Comic Strip Team?
9. Honor Blackman plays whose passionate mother in The Upper Hand?
10. Which series told of the misadventures of young Dr Stephen Daker?
11. Which retirement home features in Waiting for God?
12. Who played the head porter, Scullion, in Porterhouse Blue?
13. Which singer/actress played Adrian Mole's mother in The Growing Pains of Adrian Mole?
14. Who are Elizabeth and Emmeline better known as?
15. How many arms did Zaphod Beelbebrox have in the Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy?
16. What is the name of Martin Crane's dog in Frasier?
17. Which To the Manor Born actor starred in Lytton's Diary?
18. Which duo link Blackadder to Jeeves and Wooster?
19. In which district of South London was Only Fools and Horses set?
20. Name the DIY show in Home Improvement?
21. Alexi Sayle played which forger in Selling Hitler?
22. Which Are you being Served actress played Nerys Hughes's mum in the Liver Birds?
23. In which comedy would you find the character Bubbles?
24. Name The Goodies?
25. Peter Howitt played which Boswell in Bread?
26. Sgt Flagg was played by which actor in The Growing Pains of PC Penrose?
27. What were the names of Lucille Ball's neighbours in I Love Lucy?
28. Which Good Life actress went it alone in Solo?
29. Complete the title of this series starring Sid James: Bless This.....?
30. Who played Barry in Auf Wiedershen Pet?

Summary Minutes of Marston Parish Council Meeting of 13th October 2021

We are awaiting a response from Zurich Insurance regarding the claim for the water leak at the Church Hall. The carpet had to be cut and we are hoping to get the full cost of replacing it. There will be a £250 excess.

Budget for 2022/2023 was discussed. Clerk advised that the reserve account will need to be accessed as the current account is likely to be in deficit to around £800 by the end of the financial year. Rent from hall hires is down and the cost of the new central heating is proving more than anticipated. There are a number of projects still to be done, including fire doors on the kitchen, defibrillators, new chairs and it is likely that the ceiling in the main hall will need to be looked at.

In order for these projects to go ahead the precept will need to be raised. Raising the precept to £15000 from £12000 will mean that most of these projects will be able to go ahead. The increase in the number of homes from the Addition of Ashwood Park is likely to help keep the individual cost of this raise to a reasonable amount.

Planning Applications:

21/03994/FUL – land at Ollershaw Lane, Marston – demolition of storage building & erection of one dwelling plus change of use of Land to Domestic Curtilage.

The proposed building has a wooden cladding which is not in keeping with the surrounding buildings and whilst it may be classed as infill, councillors are concerned that adding more properties to the village is inappropriate. Clerk to send comments.

21/03767/OUT – Land adjacent to Fingerpost Cottage, Marston Lane, Marston – Erection of 2 detached bungalows.

Councillors are concerned about road safety as this would mean adding permanent vehicular access close to the dangerous junction on Marston Lane with Ollershaw Lane and Dark Lane. They also question the need for a workers cottage on such a small holding and infill on what is green belt. Clerk to send objection.

21/04181/FUL – Land at Ollershaw Lane, Marston – Cattle Shed

This application is regarding the unit already built and currently under an enforcement for removal with CW&C. Deadline for removal is 17/11/21 along

with another unit on the site. Clerk to submit an objection based upon objection grounds for another building on the site that was allowed under appeal.

Quotes received for the replacement of the hall carpet – HK Carpet Centre - £2180 and Britannia Carpets - £2516

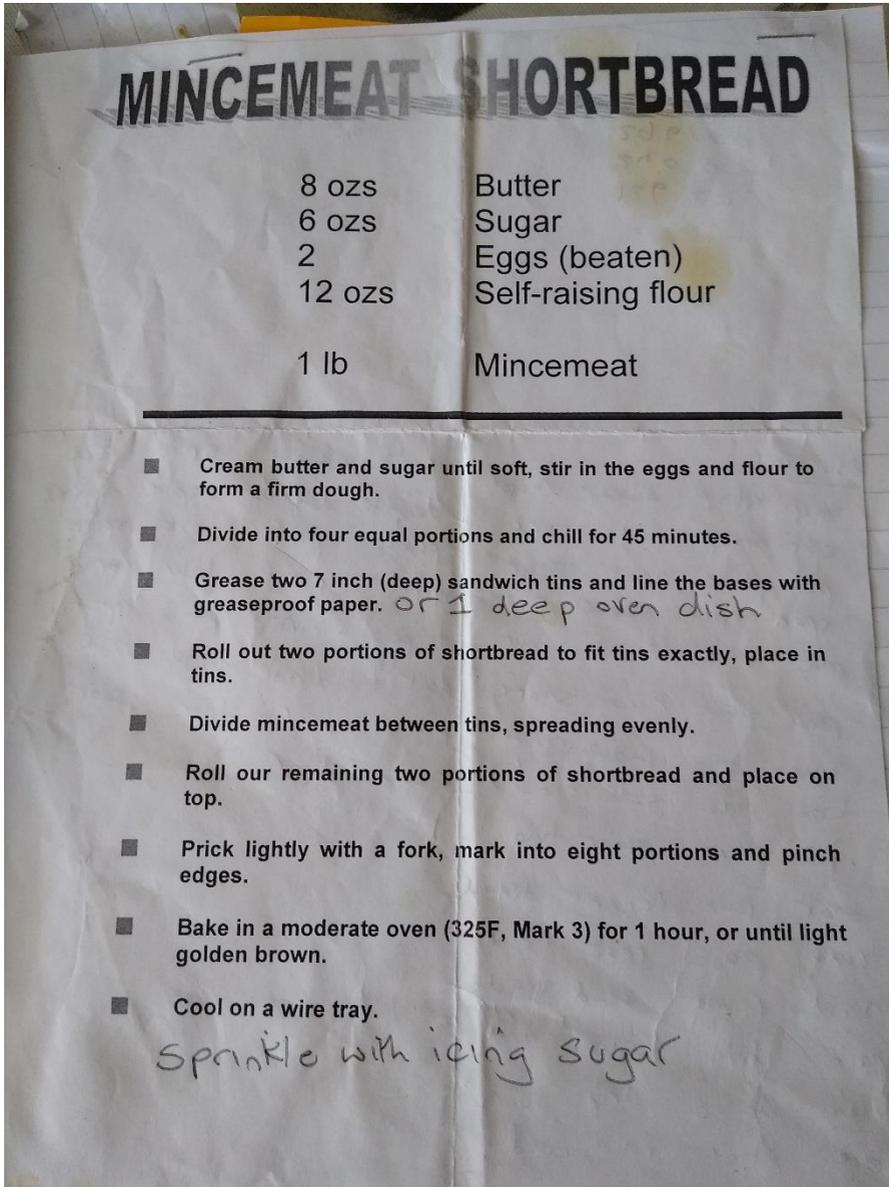
Bits 'n' Bobs

In your garden in the Winter

- Gather fallen leaves and put into a plastic bin sack. Tie off the top and punch a few holes in the bottom. The leaves will decompose and next year (or maybe the year after) you will have mulch for the garden
- Birds need fresh water and feeding at this time of year when short days leave them little time to forage. Deck a garden tree with millet, berries, rose hips, dried fruits, fresh apples, nuts and special bird foods. Wash and disinfect bird feeders and bird tables too. Remember to keep water fresh and make sure they can access it in freezing weather
- Avoid walking on your lawn when it is blanketed by heavy frost or snow, as this will inevitably damage the grass beneath. If it's a mild winter, continue to cut the lawn if it's growing, but raise the height of the mower blades
- Now is a good time to prune trees, shrubs and roses. By cutting out unwanted growth whilst the plant is dormant, you reduce the risk of the wound "bleeding". It's easier to understand the shape and structure of the plant whilst it has no leaves. Plus winter pruned trees are less prone to disease
- Start by cutting out any dead or diseased branches. Then start to improve the shape of the plant. Always use a sloping cut, just above a leaf node. Stand back from time to time and check your work
- Clean all your tools and sharpen any dull blades ready for the coming spring
- Order seeds and plug plants ready for starting off in the new year
- Clean and tidy the greenhouse or polytunnel ready to receive spring plants

Mincemeat Shortbread recipe sent in by resident Cindy Dunn.

The recipe is a photo of Cindy's own recipe sheet and as we can see it has been well used, it is obviously a firm favourite.





Christmas Day

December 25th



CANDY
CANE
CAROLING
CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER
HOLLY
LIGHTS
MERRY

MISTLETOE
NORTH
PEACE
POLE
PRESENTS
REINDEER
SANTA CLAUS
SLEIGH

SNOWMAN
STAR
STOCKING
SUGARPLUM
TREE
WREATH



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Mulled Wine

Ingredients

- 1 large orange
- 3 lemons
- 12 cloves
- 2 satsumas or clementines
- 2 x 750ml bottles red wine
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 150g/5½oz caster sugar (optional)
- brandy, to taste (optional)

Method

1. Carefully peel the zest very thinly from the orange and lemons using a vegetable peeler. Squeeze out the juice and reserve.
2. Stick the cloves into the satsumas.
3. Pour the wine, 1.2 litres/2 pints of cold water, and the citrus peel and juices into a large, heavy-based saucepan. Add the clove-studded satsumas and cinnamon sticks. Bring the mixture just to the boil, then reduce the heat until the mixture is simmering, cover the pan with the lid, and continue to simmer for about 1 hour. Stir in the sugar gradually during cooking, until the mulled wine is sweetened to your liking (you may not need all of the sugar)

ANSWERS to Quiz

- 1 .Del. 2. Lucious Lyon. 3.A fireman. 4. Patricia Hayes. 5. Judd Hirsh. 6. Robbie Coltrane
7. You'll never get Rich. 8. Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders. 9. Caroline Wheatley's
10. A Very Peculiar Practise. 11. Bayview Retirement Home. 12. David Jason. 13. Lulu.
14. Mapp & Lucia. 15. Three. 16. Eddie. 17. Peter Bowles. 18. Fry and Laurie.
19. Peckham. 20. Tool Time. 21. Conny Kujau. 22. Molly Sugden. 23. Absolutely Fabulous.
24. Bill Oddie, Tim Brooke-Taylor, Graeme Garden. 25. Joey. 26. Bryan Pringle.
27. Fred & Ethel Mertz. 28. Felicity Kendal. 29. House. 30. Timothy Spall.

Mental Health Survey of Rural Residents

Cheshire Community Action is a local charity carrying out research on the mental health needs of rural communities to help it develop new mental health services in rural areas. Please can you spare 5 minutes to complete this anonymous survey by typing the following address into your browser <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/mentalhealthrural>

Or by pointing your smart phone camera at the QR code:



The survey is open until 7th Jan 2022.

What will Cheshire Community Action do with the survey results?

Depending on what we find, this will inform the development of new projects and services in mental health. It could also inform our overall strategy by identifying where resources are most needed. It will give us valuable evidence to influence other service providers and funders within the public and voluntary sectors to help improve service provision in rural areas.

Thank you for your support. John Heselwood
john.heselwood@cheshireaction.org.uk



How many can remember the **12 Days of Christmas** without cheating?

It was often sung as a challenge; singers having to dropout or complete a forfeit for getting the order wrong. It is one of our most popular Christmas songs and not

always thought of as a carol but some people think that the verses are related to the Catholic faith.

From 1558 until 1829 Roman Catholics in England were not allowed to practice their faith openly. During that era someone wrote '**The Twelve Days of Christmas**' as a kind of secret catechism that could be sung in public without

risk of persecution. The song has two levels of interpretation: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of the church. Each element in the carol is a code word for a religious reality

 **A partridge in a pear tree...**
The crucified Christ.

 **Two turtle doves...**
Jesus' human and divine nature.

 **Three french hens...**
The Trinity, one God in three persons.

 **Four calling birds...**
The four gospels.

 **Five golden rings...**
The Torah or the wounds of Christ.

 **Six geese a-laying...**
The six days of creation.

 **Seven swans a-swimming...**
The gifts of the Holy Spirit.

 **Eight maids a-milking...**
The Beatitudes and the resurrection.

 **Nine ladies dancing...**
The nine Choirs of Angels.

 **Ten lords a-leaping...**
The 10 Commandments.

 **Eleven pipers piping...**
The 11 faithful disciples.

 **Twelve drummers drumming...**
The 12 beliefs in the Apostle's creed.

On the twelfth day of Christmas

My true love gave to me

Twelve drummers drumming,

Eleven pipers piping,

Ten lords a-leaping,

Nine ladies dancing,

Eight maids a-milking,

Seven swans a-swimming,

Six geese a-laying,

Five golden rings,

Four calling birds,

Three French hens,

Two turtle doves

And a partridge in a pear tree.

'The Twelve Days of Christmas' runs through the twelve days that make up the Christmas season – beginning on Christmas Day and ending on 6 January, the day before Epiphany.

Each day represents a new gift, starting with ‘a partridge in a pear tree’ and ending with ‘twelve drummers drumming’.

The version we know best came from Frederic Austin, an English composer who set the lyrics and added some flourishes – including the drawn out “five go-old rings” – in 1909. The carol is a cumulative song, which means that each verse is built on top of the previous verses.

Parish Events



On the 31st October Dave, Amanda, Phil and Marion from the Parish council and Yvonne Collier planted daffodil bulbs in the triangle at the end of Ollershaw Lane. These will hopefully bloom in the spring to brighten the crossroads along with the restored fingerpost. Something to look forward to.

On Remembrance Sunday
on 14th November, we joined together to remember the service and sacrifice of the Armed Forces community from Britain and the Commonwealth. We paid special tribute to the contribution of families and of the emergency



services and acknowledged the loss of innocent civilians who have lost their lives in conflict and acts of terrorism. We gave thanks to the Queen for her loyal service and dedication for nearly 70 years and remembered HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, who was himself a veteran of WW2.

We would like to thank Rev Buchan for leading the prayers, IQ SEO consultancy, Chester, for the generous donation of candles, which made such a poignant display around the memorial particularly at night and to all those who helped to make this event happen.

A montage of photographs from the day can be seen on the back page.

Coffee Mornings have been a good chance to get together and have a brew, toast and natter, we have exercised our brains with quizzes and generously donated to hall funds and MacMillan.

We will finish this year's coffee mornings on 21st December and start again in the new year on Tuesday 4th January 2022.



Who Remembers the **Youth Club** being started and held in the Church Hall? Can you recognise the people in the photo? We would love to hear your memories and stories (nothing too risky!!!) What a great photo, where are you all now?

We hear we have the organisers and young people in the photo to

thank for saving the hall and improving the poor condition it had become.

Have you ever wondered, how some common expressions came into everyday speech?

In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are 'limbs,' therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence

the expression, 'Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg.' Artists know hands and arms are more difficult to paint.

In the good old days, incredible as it sounds, men and women took baths only twice a year (May and October). Women kept their hair covered, while men shaved their heads (because of lice and bugs) and wore wigs. Wealthy men could afford good wigs made from wool. They couldn't wash the wigs, so to clean them they would carve out a loaf of bread, put the wig in the shell, and bake it for 30 minutes. The heat would make the wig big and fluffy, hence the term 'big wig.' Today we often use the term 'here comes the Big Wig' because someone appears to be or is powerful and wealthy.

In the late 1700's, many houses consisted of a large room with only one chair. Commonly, a long wide board folded down from the wall, and was used for dining. The 'head of the household' always sat in the chair while everyone else ate sitting on the floor. Occasionally a guest, who was usually a man, would be invited to sit in this chair during a meal. To sit in the chair meant you were important and in charge. They called the one sitting in the chair the 'chair man.' Today in business, we use the expression or title 'Chairman' or 'Chairman of the Board'.

Personal hygiene left much room for improvement. As a result, many women and men had developed acne scars by adulthood. The women would spread bee's wax over their facial skin to smooth out their complexions. When they were speaking to each other, if a woman began to stare at another woman's face she was told, 'mind your own bee's wax.' Should the woman smile, the wax would crack, hence the term 'crack a smile'. In addition, when they sat too close to the fire, the wax would melt . . . Therefore, the expression 'losing face.'

Ladies wore corsets, which would lace up in the front. A proper and dignified woman, as in 'straight laced' wore a tightly tied lace.

Early politicians required feedback from the public to determine what the people considered important. Since there were no telephones, TV's or radios, the politicians sent their assistants to local taverns, pubs, and bars. They were told to 'go sip some ale' and listen to people's conversations and political concerns. Many assistants were dispatched at different times. 'You go sip here'

and 'You go sip there.' The two words 'go sip' were eventually combined when referring to the local opinion and, thus we have the term 'gossip.'

At local taverns, pubs, and bars, people drank from pint and quart-sized containers. A bar maid's job was to keep an eye on the customers and keep the drinks coming. She had to pay close attention and remember who was drinking in 'pints' and who was drinking in 'quarts,' hence the term minding your 'P's and 'Q's.

One more and betting you didn't know this!

In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. However, how to prevent them from rolling about the deck? The best storage method devised was a square-based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem, how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others? The solution was a metal plate called a 'Monkey' with 16 round indentations. However, if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make 'Brass Monkeys'. Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannonballs would come right off the monkey. Thus, it was quite literally, 'Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey.' All this time, you thought that it was a rude expression, didn't you !

Millionaires shortbread

Ingredients

For the shortbread

- 225g plain flour
- 175g salted butter
- 75g sugar

For the caramel

- 150g salted butter
- 1 can of condensed milk
- 100g golden syrup

To decorate

- 400g milk chocolate
- Edible gold glitter

Method:

1. Pre-heat the oven to 180°C/ 160°C fan/ gas mark 4
2. To make the shortbread, mix the plain flour, butter and sugar together. Press evenly into a 9" square or rectangular lined baking tray and bake in the oven for 20 minutes. Leave to cool
3. To make the caramel, place the butter, condensed milk and golden syrup into a pan and simmer for 15 minutes
4. Place the caramel onto the shortbread and leave to set in the fridge
5. Once the caramel has set, melt the chocolate in a microwave for two minutes
6. Spread over the top of the caramel shortbread then decorate with edible gold glitter
7. Leave to set, then cut up into squares

Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic

COVID-19 Outbreak Board meetings are still being held regularly to monitor the current situation. The general public can listen in and ask questions (once registered). Go to:
<http://cmttpublic.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=1107> to register or look at meeting minutes/agendas and statistics.

➤ **If you are in need of help**

You should ask:

- Family. Do you have family close at hand?
- A friendly neighbour?
- Marston Parish Community Support team
 - Our contacts are below
- **Contact the CW&C Helpline on 0300 1237031** or www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/covid

Some residents have problems with the supply of prescriptions or provisions when their regular supporters may be unavailable. In this case don't hesitate to use the support of your Marston Parish Community Support team.

For those struggling financially

The lockdown has faced many with financial difficulties. Those who may be struggling to pay bills please use the CW&C Helpline as above.

➤ **If You're Struggling to Afford Food**

You may be able to get **food bank vouchers** but you will need a referral which you can obtain from:

- CW&C Help Scheme 0300 123 7065 9am – 5pm
- Citizens Advice Bureau: CAB Helpline – 0344 576 6111 or call Sean on 07894 238 963, from 9.30am to 4.30pm - weekdays.
- WCCAB – Gaynor – 07736 621235 or Sam – 07596 338067, Monday – Thursday 9am – 5pm, weekdays only.

➤ **Other problems?**

Our volunteer team is here to help please don't hesitate to give us a ring and we'll be pleased to assist.

Useful Contacts

CWAC Councillors

Lynn Gibbon 07581 226814

lynn.gibbon@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Norman Wright 01606 74788

norman.wright@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

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Cheshire West and Chester Council

Mon-Fri 81m-7pm and Sat 91m-12.30pm

Online at www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

General enquiries 0300 1238123

Highways 0300 1237036

Street Scene 0300 1237026

PCSO Diana Wiggins PCSO20322 diana.wiggins@cheshire.police.uk

Officer Terry Boyle PC4555 terry.boyle@cheshire.police.uk

Dial 101 in a non-emergency and 999 in an emergency

Ester McVey – your local MP Telephone: 01625 529922

Marston Parish Council cannot be held responsible for any errors, misprints or opinions stated in this publication. The views expressed by the contributors are their own and not necessarily the views of the parish council.

Your Contributions and ideas are welcomed!

We are always grateful for ideas and articles from any of our readers . Just send them through to the clerk or any one of the councillors

Further information on Parish matters can be found on marstonparishcouncil.co.uk

Back copies of the **Marston Murmurs newsletters** are also on this website.

For Facebook see: [Facebook/marstonparishcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/marstonparishcouncil)

Those who wish an electronic copy email info@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk.

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Space for Williams advert



In Flanders Fields
John McCrae, 1872 - 1918

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place, and in the sky,
The larks, still bravely singing, fly,
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead; short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe!
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch, be yours to hold it high!
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

