

# Marcham & District News

COTHILL – FRILFORD – GARFORD – GOZZARDS FORD – MARCHAM – TUBNEY

Your Independent Local Newsheet – [www.madnews.co.uk](http://www.madnews.co.uk)



November 2012 Vol: 34 No: 11

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



**Marcham Village Shop  
and Post Office**  
**Mon - Fri: 07.30 - 13.00**  
**& 15.00 - 18.00**  
**Sat / Sun: 07.30 - 13.00**

Official Opening 16 November 3 – 3.30pm  
 For more details see page 7...  
**Come and Support  
 Marcham's Shop**



▲ The first six volunteers training to serve in the Post Office see page 7



Do you recognise this nurse? ► see page 21

◀ Pre School exploring! see page 15



November		
1 Thur	Midweek Walk, The Red Lion, Blewbury, 12.30 Lunch :: Grain Dryer 13.30 Walk	7
6 Tue	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20	
7 Wed	Have Your Say, MVS 11.00 – 12.00	3
9 Fri	MP's Surgery, Didcot, 17.30 – 19.00	9
10 Sat	Nearly NewSale, Appleton Village Hall, 10.00 – 12.00	15
10 Sat	Gift Fair, Southmoor Village Hall, 14.00	21
13 Tues	Singing, 62 North Street, 14.00-15.30	15
13 Tues	Marcham Society, All Saints' Church, 19.45	7
14 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3
15 Thur	Marcham WI, Denman College, 19.30	13
16 Fri	Official Opening of Marcham Village Shop, 15.00 – 15.30	7
16 Fri	MP's Surgery, Wallingford, 17.30 – 19.00	9
17 Sat	Bazaar, Hanney WM Hall, 10.00 – 14.00	21
19 Mon	Street Briefing, Parkside, 19.00 – 20.00	3

20 Tue	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20	
20 Tue	<b>Deadline for December MADNews, 17.00</b>	
21-24	Abingdon Drama Club: Great Expectations, Unicorn theatre, 19.30	17
24-25	Sobell Christmas Gift Fair, Radley College, 10.00	21
27 Tues	Singing, 62 North Street, 14.00 – 15.30	15
30 Fri	Marcham School Christmas Fayre 18.00 – 20.00	15
December		
1&2	Christmas Fair, Denman College	13
4 Tue	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20	
7 Fri	MP's Surgery, Wantage, 17.30 – 19.00	9
8 Tue	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20	
14 Fri	Oxford Waits, All Saints' Church, 19.45	13

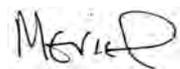
*Details of events may change after publication, please check with the relevant organisers before attending events.*

Dear Readers

Winter is coming, the berries are thick on the trees and bushes and we have already had flooding! As part of our caring community, I am going to take a moment to see who around me might need more help and support this winter. Circumstances change so quickly so those who may have been helping others last month, might need help themselves the next.

.... and it might be me next...

Until next time



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Advertising: 5pm 15th month  
Other copy: 5pm 20th month  
except for Jan when it is 15th Dec for both

**ADDITIONAL COPIES**

These are available free from Marcham Post Office or the Editor. Postal copies are also available – contact the Editor.

**NOTES**

*We apologise in advance for any errors that may creep into MADNews (online or print), or omissions that creep out - we don't do it on purpose!*

The Editor reserves the right to alter, omit or hold over copy to another issue. The views expressed in the Marcham & District News are not necessarily those of the editorial team, who are all volunteers.

**NHS NON-EMERGENCY**

**Call Free from any phone - 111**

**POLICE**

PCSO Carly Milward C6517

Call 101 (non-emergency)

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For other councillors go to

[www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

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November 2012

**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

**The Anson Trust – proposed new community facilities**

On page 3 of this edition of MADNews the Anson Trust reveals its latest plans for new community facilities. Your parish councillors will be finding out as much information as possible, and will continue to listen to parishioners and their views, and will fully represent the parish in its dealings with any future planning applications.

**RH Transport**

As many will know already RH Transport ceased to operate with effect from 5th October. This meant that the X15 Abingdon to Witney bus route which the company operated, and which served Marcham came to an end. Fortunately Oxfordshire County Council was able to negotiate with Stagecoach to take over the route and the village continues to have the same bus service as before. The stops in the village are on the A415 by the war memorial on both sides of the road, and at the eastern side of the village, by the entrance lane to Hyde Farm Nurseries, again on both sides of the road.

**Grants**

The Parish Council considers any requests for grants at its November meeting. Therefore, if there is any worthy and needy organisation where Marcham residents benefit which is considering applying to the Parish Council for a grant, then please write to the Clerk as soon as possible, stating the purpose of the grant and supplying a copy of your organisation's accounts.

**Remembrance Sunday – Road Closure A415 Frilford Road, Church Street, New Road**

A road closure order for the section of Frilford Road between Church Street and North Street, Church Street itself and new Road has been obtained for the latter half of Sunday morning 11th November. This is to allow the parade from the Church, after the Church service, to the War Memorial in Frilford Road, in order to lay wreaths. Please note that the diversion will be along North Street to St. Peter's cross roads, then left to the junction with the A338, and left again to the Frilford Service Station.

**Fireworks**

November will soon be here, and the letting off of fireworks seems to spread over several days rather than on just 5th November. A reminder therefore, to be considerate for neighbours and the many pets and animals in the village when letting off your fireworks. Please notify others when any fireworks are going to be lit so that villagers are aware and arrangements can be made to keep pets indoors.

**Parishioner of the Year Award**

Back in 2003 the Parish Council discussed the giving of an annual award for community effort. This was to recognise the efforts of local people from anywhere within the parish who had contributed to local community life. Marcham Parish covers the wide area from the A420 in the north to the River Ock in the South and from the A338 in the West across to and including most of Gozzards Ford in the east. The Council gives the award to anyone who, at any time, has significantly contributed to life within the parish. Should there not be any appropriate nominations, then the award need not be made. The certificate is presented at the annual meeting for electors each year.

The scheme has been running for the past 9 years and the Council is again inviting nominations for the next award. There are many people who have devoted much time and energy giving to the community now or in the past, who would be worthy recipients, Would anyone who wishes to submit a nomination, please contact the clerk, whose details appear below, sending a short statement of not more than 200 words, as to who he/she wishes to nominate and the reasons why the person should receive the award.

**Planning Applications**

The following planning applications have been considered by the Parish Council

**P12/V1907/HH** Proposed first floor side extension over existing garages - 4 Hyde Copse. The Council had no objections

**P12/V2007/HH** Demolish bungalow and construct a chalet style bungalow - 9 Mill Road (amendments to a previously approved application). The Council supported the application

**Date of Next Council Meeting:**

**Wednesday 14th November** at 7.30 p.m. in the residents' lounge, at Duffield Place.

**Clerk to the Council:** Mrs. L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Rd, 01865 391833

[clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

[www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**HELP WANTED**

I am an independent lady, in a wheelchair, living in Marcham. I am looking for a LIVELY PERSON to help me with personal care on Saturdays and/or Sundays once or twice a month. This would consist of 5 short visits per day. **No lifting, age is no bar, good pay.** Please ring STELLA on 01865 391614

**Have Your Say & Street Briefings**

- Wednesday 7 Nov 1100-1200  
Marcham Village Shop

- Monday 19 Nov 1900-2000  
Parkside, Marcham

**PCSO Carly Milward C6517**  
**Police Non-emergency: Dial 101**

Dear Editor

**There is no such thing as a Free Lunch**

The BBC1 Programme "Watchdog" on Wednesday 26th September was interesting but my heart sank as I watched the piece relating to the severe problems that Taylor Wimpey were having with properties they had built. It seemed that the problems were linked to the need to save money by taking shortcuts!!

Marcham has been offered a juicy plum called the Sports Complex in exchange for the right to build 50 houses on Anson Field and when Taylor Wimpey need to do some cost cutting I think I know where the "Axe" will fall! We will no doubt be told that adequate safeguards are in place but remember, governments can't stand up to big business so what chance would Marcham have against Taylor Wimpey?

After all the pruning has already started. As I understand it, the original proposal was for the Sports Complex to be accessed by a regular two way road and before the ink was dry it had been revised down to a gravel track with passing places! There could have been a possibility, at some time in a much improved future, that the road would become the responsibility of some Highways Department but who will be responsible for a gravel track?

At my age I am sure that the problems will not affect me but there are many clichés warning about things being too good to be true. I am reminded of "Caveat Emptor", Buyer Beware!!!

**BERNARD COLE**

Dear Editor

Marcham Players must be quite envious. Those who attended the MCG open meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> October were treated to a farce that would be the envy of any theatre group. Anson Trustee Chris Hillier revealed to a shocked audience that after years of planning they have abandoned the idea of building their community facilities on land behind Hyde Copse. Instead the Trust is now looking at a site that is even further away and that will have most of the village taking to their cars to reach it.

It is very sad that despite this sudden change of plan the Anson Trust still refuses to consider locating the community facilities on the Anson Field where they can truly be called a community HUB and where there is easy access for all. It is surely clear to anyone that the Anson Field is better suited to providing conveniently accessible community facilities rather than becoming an over large, over dominant and over dense housing estate. The housing estate planned for the field will both block access from the school to the remaining green space and destroy any opportunity

November 2012

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE ANSON TRUST**



As difficulties were being encountered finalising contracts, the Trust decided that it was necessary to re-approach other landowners in and around Marcham and, as a result, has received an extremely generous offer from Mr Duffield. As a consequence, and to comply with current Charity legislation, the Trust and Taylor Wimpey will be seeking planning permission for an alternative site for the new Community Hub and sports pitches and it is intended that the application will be submitted before the end of October.

The new ten acre site is on land behind Anson Close and, in so far as is possible, the building, pitches and ancillary features will all be the same as those put forward for the Hyde Copse site.

Although this will inevitably result in some delay to the project (Taylor Wimpey believe this will be a short delay and expect to commence construction of the Community Hub in spring 2013), the overall benefits are significant for the village:

- The Trust will be left with a significantly enhanced endowment and this will not only substantially underpin the financial viability of the scheme but will also enable the Trust to possibly pursue other charitable works for the benefit of the community,
- Road access to the new site will be off the A415 east of Marcham and this in itself brings a number of advantages:
  - It is likely that it will extend the 30mph speed limit further down the A415 and will therefore improve the safety of Packhorse Lane and the Howard Cornish turning and make it easier for cyclists from the village to cross to the cycle path,
  - It will avoid any increase in the volume of traffic using Howard Cornish Road,
  - It will remove the need for any of the trees in Hyde Copse to be felled for the construction of the access road,
- The new site is closer to the Anson Field and the Trust is already working on alternatives for safe and convenient pedestrian access to it.

As and when the Trust and Taylor Wimpey have more information we will provide it.

for future school expansion.

The Anson Trust's poor management of their assets in past decades, their apparent detachment from the village and their history of secrecy are well known. Sadly there appears to be no sign of that situation improving and the Trust continues to reject the wishes of the majority of the village as expressed in the independent consultation organised by Jane Hanna in May\*. This is not the legacy the Anson Sisters expected when they set up the trust to manage the Institute and the original cricket ground over a century ago.

We are regularly told how short of cash the Trust has become and I can only hope that they fold before they can follow through with the housing estate on the Anson Field, destroying forever the unique character of Marcham. It is clear from section 74 of the National Planning Policy Framework\*\* that even if the Trust folds, planning policy will still strictly control what any new owner can do with the Anson Field, particularly in terms of any changes to Marcham's social, recreational and cultural facilities.

**BOB ANDERSON**

[www.ansontrust.scilutions.co.uk/](http://www.ansontrust.scilutions.co.uk/)

**\* Results from May 2012 Consultation**

For 329; Against 393; Abstentions 438

**\*\* S74 (page 18) of the National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012) states**

Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

[www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningsystem/planningpolicy/planningpolicyframework/](http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningsystem/planningpolicy/planningpolicyframework/)

A copy of this document can also be found on the MADNews website: [www.madnews.co.uk](http://www.madnews.co.uk)

**LITTER BLITZ**

Thank you to everyone who was able to come along and help tidy up Marcham. We managed to find 10 bags of rubbish

**Hope to see you on the next one.**

*Where Litter Lies, Beauty Dies*

Dear Editor

I wonder if the thief, or thieves, who stole, (yes "stole") 10-15 bunches of grapes from my vine 3 or 4 weeks ago, (mid-September) enjoyed their ill-gotten gains? Whoever it was,



carefully and systematically cut off the bunches, on the Orchard Road side of my fence, that the vine grows over, on the junction with Elwes Road - the sunnier side!

Perhaps they didn't know that the grapes were "wine" grapes: small, quite bitter and with at least one pip in each, quite unlike the large, juicy, sweet, seedless grapes that are routinely bought at our local supermarkets! In which case, the grapes would have undoubtedly ended in the waste food bin. What a pity when they could have been turned into a crisp, dry white wine given the right treatment.

If, however, the grapes were known to have been a wine variety, perhaps in a year or two's time when the resulting wine is ready to be drunk, perhaps (I hope!) it will have turned to vinegar!! We'll have to wait and see won't we!!

Next year, I'll make sure that all the vine, and the grapes, are on my side of the fence, where I can at least see if someone is up to their dirty tricks again.

What a sad society we live in!

**TONY BLACKLER**



**Official Opening for Marcham's Shop and Post Office!**

**3 - 3.30pm Friday 16 November**

**Everyone Welcome**

Marcham's Village Shop and Post Office will be officially opened by our MP, **Ed Vaizey**, (see page 9 for his usual column) at 3pm on Friday 16 November. There will be samples and you will be able to do your usual shopping plus use the Post Office.

If you haven't visited the shop yet, why not call in to see the wide variety of products we stock - everyone who has become a regular shopper has been delighted with our range and pricing - you'll find that we offer fantastic value.

*The Management Team at your local shop*

**Marcham Village Shop  
and Post Office**

**Mon - Fri: 07.30 - 13.00  
& 15.00 - 18.00**

**Sat / Sun: 07.30 - 13.00**

We stock all you expect in a local shop and a bit more...

- Tea, coffee, sugar & milk (all 3 varieties)
- Bread, spread, eggs and jam
- Sweets, drinks and snacks
- Groceries, local vegetables
- Flour for cakes and bread
- Frozen and fresh meat and frozen food
- Plus toiletries and baby items

You can also order newspapers & magazines for collection

If you can spare an hour or more per week, please drop into the shop and talk to us about volunteering.

**Come and Support Marcham's Shop**




**TWO PIANOS**

**Free** to a good home, a Chappell upright piano. Very good tone. New owner collects. Tel: 391200

Upright piano - **free** to good home, may need tuning. Tel: 01235 520647



**A DISHWASHER**

Miele dishwasher for sale. Bought in Germany but has English instruction book. 10 years old and in working order. Free, buyer collects. Tel:- 391429

**AND SOME FURNITURE**

Divan Bed 4' wide x 6' 6" long with headboard £40  
Double headboard £8  
Small oak dropleaf coffee table £10  
07967 003636

**MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK**

**Thursday, November 1st.**

For this month's walk we will eat at The Red Lion Inn in Nottingham Fee, Blewbury, (Map Ref: SU530857) at 12.30 for lunch but will start our walk at the GRAIN DRYER (SU550844) which is at the end of the first road right off the A417 south of Aston Tirrold signposted "To The Downs" at 1.30pm for the walk of about 4 miles. This walk will take us up Juniper Valley as far as the Ridgeway, encircling Lowbury Hill. Members free, non-members £1. New walkers always welcome. Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and further details.



*The*  
**Marcham  
Society**

*All Saints' Church Marcham*  
**7.45pm 13th November 2012**

**Open Evening**

Short talks by members and others about their research into various aspects of local history: an introduction to forthcoming courses and a report on the recent mini-dig by the archaeologists from the dig (see page 9). Also Will Cumber will talk on the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme in farming.

Non-members £2

[www.marchamsociety.org.uk](http://www.marchamsociety.org.uk)

Further details: Janey Cumber (391327) or Judith Fontaine (391275)

**ED VAIZEY WRITES...**

As winter approaches, some people may worry about their energy bills. I would urge anyone worried about their bills to contact their local Age UK or Citizens Advice to find out if they can claim free help from the Warm Front scheme to help them be warm, well and wealthier this winter. The eligibility criteria for help under the Warm Front scheme has widened from September, so even if you have been turned down before you may be able to get help this year. The heating and insulation improvements Warm Front offers could help many households locally to stay warm.



You can also find out if you can get free help from Warm Front by calling 0800 316 2805 and further information and an online application form are also available on [www.direct.gov.uk/warmfront](http://www.direct.gov.uk/warmfront)

Over the summer, the government introduced new rules on the disclosure of interests and other standards for local councillors. These set out a much more straightforward regime which will be clearer and easier to follow, making sure councillors are open and above board about what needs to be declared, but are not tied up in bureaucracy in the process. You can get more details from the South and Vale Democratic Services Manager, telephone 01491 823049 or email [democratic.services@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@southandvale.gov.uk). I know lots of people think about becoming parish councillors, but are put off because they think they have to disclose their financial details and those of their family. The rules have now been simplified, so do take a look if you are thinking of serving in some way. There will be elections for some councils next May, and there is always a need for local people to represent their communities. Do talk to a current councillor to find out what is involved – it may not be as bad as you think!

One of the most visible things in the constituency is Didcot Power Station. We've recently heard that after 42 years of service Didcot A Power Station will stop generating electricity on 31st March 2013. Closing a major power station is a complex task so the decommissioning and demolition of the plant is expected to take several years, and Didcot B will continue in operation. In just a few years time, however, the view will be changing.

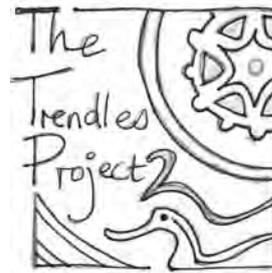
**ED VAIZEY**, MP Wantage and Didcot (Con)

**MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY**

5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise

Nov 9	<b>Didcot</b> , King Alfred Drive Community Centre, OX11 7NU
Nov 16	<b>Wallingford</b> , Town Hall, OX10 0AD
Dec 7	<b>Wantage</b> , Civic Hall, OX12 9BX
<b>Contact Ed Vaizey MP by</b>	
Post	The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
E-mail	<a href="mailto:vaizeye@parliament.uk">vaizeye@parliament.uk</a>
Web	<a href="http://www.vaizey.com">www.vaizey.com</a>
Tel	0207 219 6350

**A NEW COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT TO BEGIN IN MARCHAM**



The excavations behind the former Noah's Ark Inn on the A338 will be well known to residents of Marcham and the surrounding villages, especially to the many local people who worked at or visited the summer excavations between 2001 and 2011. Thanks to a Heritage Lottery Fund grant, aimed specifically at giving archaeologists the opportunity to work with volunteers from the local area, an exciting new three-year phase of investigation - The Trendles Project 2 - will soon begin at Manor Farm, Marcham.

The excavated site is of national importance because of its evidence for exceptional Iron Age and Romano-British activity, and for its wealth of well-preserved archaeology. Centuries before the Roman Conquest, Marcham was already the site of a substantial Iron Age complex, and probably also a shrine. In the Romano-British period the site developed with the construction of a major temple and an extraordinary semi-amphitheatre, from which the field name 'Trendles', meaning wheel, circle or ring, most probably derives. As a temple site, the devotees dedicated all manner of things to their chosen gods for hundreds of years, and the amount of finds recovered during excavation is almost overwhelming.

The Trendles Project 2, with the continuing support of the Marcham Society, now makes it possible for residents from Marcham and the surrounding villages to work on a major research project alongside a friendly and welcoming group of professional and volunteer archaeologists from Oxford University. Working with the pottery, animal bone and written records, the team will begin to piece together this exciting chapter of Marcham's history.

No experience is needed as training will be provided, but where possible the project will require fairly regular attendance of one day a week, either **Tuesday or Thursday between 10am-4pm**, which will include specialist training sessions. There will also be seminars and talks from time to time, open days, and hopefully a repeat of our very successful community test-pits dig carried out in August this year.

Places are limited and booking a place is essential. If you would like to know more, or are interested in joining the project or supporting us in any way, please contact Sheila Raven and Paula Levick at [trendlesproject@gmail.com](mailto:trendlesproject@gmail.com) or come along to the Marcham Society Open Evening on 13 November, 7.45 pm at All Saints' Church, Marcham, when the programme will include a short talk on the project.

**PAULA LEVICK**

**THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL**



The 2012 Poppy Appeal runs up to 10th of November 2012. Collecting boxes are around the area and the house to house collection continues. This is a very important charity and we urge you all to give as generously as you feel able. In addition to the traditional poppies there are a large silk poppies, wrist bands, badges and remembrance crosses available and we urge you to support these items with an appropriate donation.

*Thank you for your generosity.*

**CHRISTINE AND MALCOLM DENTON** 01865 391497

**MARCHAM AND DISTRICT FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**Christmas Draw  
Saturday 22nd December 2012  
Tickets on sale now**

**EX SERVICEMEN'S CLUB  
NORTH STREET, MARCHAM**

Bank Balance  
£15,017

Local Events  
£10,124

Donations  
£5664

2012 - 2013 Membership  
Voting: 104 Junior: 15

5p Coins  
3759

Marcham  
Community  
Group



## Community facilities on the move - Again!

MCG's Open Meeting on 16 October had been planned a few weeks ago to review MCG's present role and decide on its activities in the future now that, as we all thought, the Anson Trust's proposed new community facilities behind Hyde Copse were going ahead. But the best-laid plans can go awry. The Anson Trust informed MCG two days before the meeting that the proposed community facilities were, instead, to be built on a field behind Anson Close, and the Open Meeting turned into a forum for a lively discussion on this sudden change of plan (see the Anson Trust's statement on p.3). Representatives of the Trust responded to the expressions of astonishment and concern from the audience at this completely unexpected change to their proposals but were unable, for commercial reasons, to give more information than is given on p.3.

**The MCG committee is particularly concerned at the lack of consultation. The Anson Trust says that it and Taylor Wimpey intend to submit a new planning application before the end of October. This gives no opportunity for the community to see details of, and to comment on, the proposed new location and the proposed pedestrian, cycle and vehicle access to it.**

## MCG's future role

The Open Meeting did also decide on MCG's future direction. Over the past year MCG has taken on the role of facilitating communication between village groups and the Anson Trust. This has recently led to the formation of the Joint Users Planning Group (JUPG) to act as a united and effective voice for potential users of the proposed facilities in discussions with the Anson Trust and Taylor Wimpey – see the section below.

MCG's future activities could include continuing to work with the JUPG to:

- ◆ review the impact of the latest proposals
- ◆ review future management options, including policies for community vs commercial use

MCG could also:

- ◆ work to protect the remaining green space on the Anson Field and the 'new' green space
- ◆ continue to organise and encourage community activities

Members present at the meeting decided by 34 votes to 2, with 3 abstentions, to pursue all four options. The low turnout may reflect a fatigue with the whole process, even among those who have an active interest, although we were, unwittingly, in competition with the Great British Bake Off final.

## Joint Users Planning Group (JUPG)

**The JUPG has the following village groups as members:** The Parish Council, All Saints' PCC, Marcham Players, Marcham Society, Marcham WI, Marcham Cricket Club, Marcham Football Club, Marcham Sports, Scouts and Social Club, Marcham Tennis Club, Marcham Bridge Club, Marcham Café, the Men's Breakfast, the Friday and TAG Clubs, the Guides, Brownies, Rainbow Guides and Cubs, the Youth Club, the Pre-school Play Group, the Baby and Toddler Group, and MCG. All village groups have a standing invitation to join the JUPG.

A working group is reviewing the details of the Anson Trust's business plan for the proposed community facilities and will be holding further meetings with representatives of the Trust.

The JUPG will also be examining the impact of the latest change on potential users and on the business plan.

**MCG 2012-2013 subscriptions are now due. Renewal deadline is 31 October.**

**Individual £5.00    Family £8.00    Children under 18 free**

**To renew or join download a membership form from [mail@marcham.org](mailto:mail@marcham.org) or phone 391193 (Suzanne)**

Look for the new planning application on the Vale website from early November and send your comments to the Vale.





## Marcham WI in November

Our next meeting will be a Christmas Crafts evening, with cards, door wreaths and other ideas being demonstrated by various members. This is intended to be an interactive event for those who would like to take part. Otherwise, just watch and enjoy!

THURSDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER  
at Denman College. 7.30pm

### OTHER EVENTS AT COUNTY LEVEL

Visit to Winchester Cathedral and Christmas Market - Wednesday, 28th November.

Talk on Foundling Hospitals - 27th November - Adderbury Parish Institute

Christmas Songs - Oxford Town Hall - Monday 3rd December.

**Your local WI - A voice for women -  
and a place to make friends**

Contacts for new members or visitors  
Christine Whild 01865 391270

## MARCHAM PLAYERS RENOWNED MUSICIAN PLAYS AT MARCHAM

'Musical History' comes to Marcham in the form of THE OXFORD WAITS musicians and singers at All Saints Church Marcham Friday December 14th at 1945hrs. tickets £10 or under 12 £5, mince pies and wine included. They were here two years ago and were a great success, so buy your tickets early from Dave Hutchins 391964 or Cheryl 391200, or the community shop North Street.

Who are they? From medieval times to 1835, most large towns had a band of Waits, who would be paid to play their music through the night waking people on dark mornings. They would also greet and play to visiting dignitaries at the town gates. Disbanded due to cost in 1835, they continued to play over Christmas, slowly evolving into the modern representation that we know today. Oxford Waits is led by Tim Healey (son of Dennis) who is a well respected musical academic, often broadcasting on national radio on various musical topics. Do come, it will be good fun.

We now have another member who attended the play reading of Humes' Chiltern Hundreds: A period political drama, being not only humorous but also very atmospheric, with insightful revelations of the class structure and intrigue in the old political families at the turn of the 20th century. It was a good evening, with wine to assist vocal lubrication.

See you all on December 7th. A wonderful start to the Christmas celebrations.

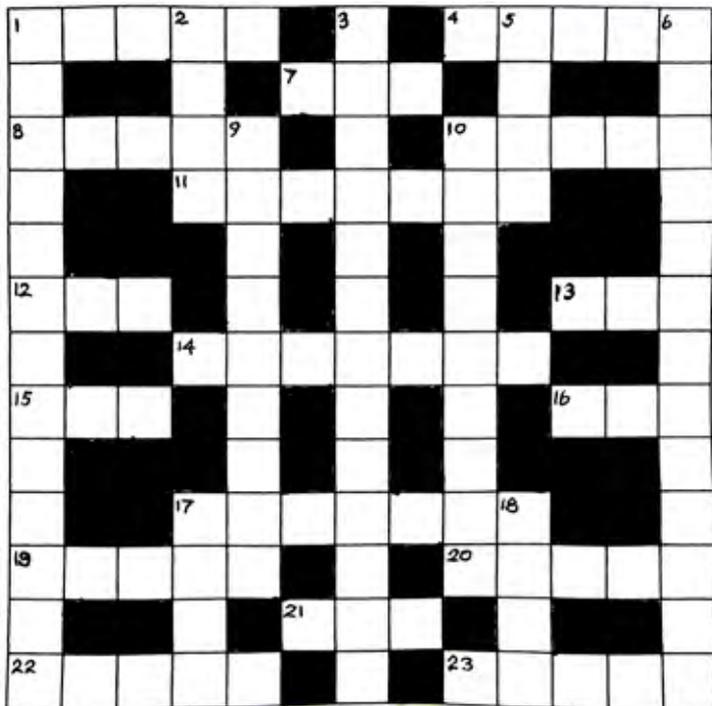
We look forward to seeing you.

Any enquiries regarding Marcham Players can be made to Dave Hutchinson on 01865 391964 or Cheryl Sewell on 01865 391200



.....  
w w w . m a r c h a m p l a y e r s . c o . u k

### CROSSWORD BY ALISA



#### ACROSS

- 1 TV Programme (5)
- 4 Multitude (5)
- 7 Female swan (3)
- 8 Esau's father (5)
- 10 Female fox (5)
- 11 part (7)
- 12 Boy (3)
- 13 X (3)
- 14 Tuesday sound in North St (7)
- 15 Insect (3)
- 16 Also (3)
- 17 Occupied (7)
- 19 Entice (5)
- 20 Theatrical entertainment (5)

- 21 Pen for pigs (3)
- 22 Female relative (5)
- 23 Fish (5)

#### DOWN

- 1 Place near Stadhampton (13)
- 3 Exchange (4)
- 3 Upholsterers (7.6)
- 5 Destroy (4)
- 6 Building for courses (6.7)
- 9 Seasoning (9)
- 10 Server in MVS (9)
- 19 Long poem (4)
- 18 Piece of furniture (4)

Personal adverts in MADNews are free so if want to put in a notice or have something to sell, call the editor on 391725 or email editor@madnews.co.uk

Santa's grotto • Festive face painting • Children's farm • Christmas market • Raffle • Refreshments • Much much more...

TICKETS NOW ON SALE  
£3 IN ADVANCE / £6 FAMILY TICKET  
£4 PER PERSON ON THE DAY  
CHILDREN 16 AND UNDER FREE  
ORDER YOUR TICKETS ONLINE  
WWW.THEWIREALJAMFESTIVAL.COM  
OR TELEPHONE 01865 391 991



**MARCHAM BABY AND TODDLER GROUP**

We run all through the year, regardless of school holidays, on Tuesdays from 10-11.30am at the back of All Saints Church. The first visit is free, then just £2 per family each session. Just turn up, or phone Tess on 392833 if you would like someone to introduce you. **Do come and join us!**

**MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS**

Every week a small group from Marcham Pre-school can be seen around the village on our 'Wednesday Walkabout', so far this term we have visited the shop (several times!), been on a number walk, a colour walk, looked for leaves falling off the trees as well as using every opportunity to discuss road safety and awareness. This week we talked about all the interesting things we could see - the bars were very exciting! and we found out about fire hydrant signs too..... If you would like to find out more about the Pre-school and what we do (or about fire hydrants!!), please contact us via our website [www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com](http://www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com), e:mail [marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk), telephone 01865 392101 or pop in and see us within the Primary school!! We still have a few spaces left for this school year and we are accepting applications for 2013, 2014 and 2015 (it's never too early to get your child's name down on our list!). **MARION, NICKY, KATHARINE, SAM AND NATASHA**  
[marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk)  
[www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com](http://www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com)



**Faringdon Youth Project**

We support young people aged 16-24 in the local area of Faringdon and the surrounding villages, to help find work experience, work placements, apprenticeships, voluntary work, further education, and employment. We offer practical help such as writing Job application letters, CV writing, and form filling. All volunteers are from local businesses & education, with a wide experience. If you're not sure what you want to do in your career, come and talk to us. Our sessions are on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month, from 4 pm – 5.30 pm in The Faringdon Library, Upper Room.  
[www.faringdonyouthproject.yolasite.com](http://www.faringdonyouthproject.yolasite.com)

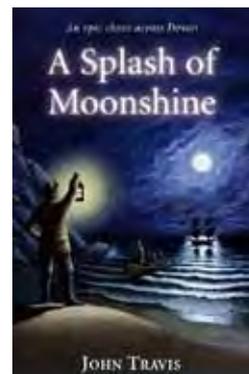
**Nearly New Sale**  
**10 am – 12 noon Saturday 10th November**  
**Appleton Village Hall £1 Entry Fee**  
 Quality toys, clothes, equipment for babies & children and household goods - at a great price!  
 Why not Hire a Table for £10  
 (sellers take 100% of their profits)  
 For more Info or Table Hire contact Sophie:  
[willissophie@gmail.com](mailto:willissophie@gmail.com) or 07813 838663  
**All proceeds go to Appleton Pre-School**

**A SPLASH OF MOONSHINE**  
*Mystery lurks at every turn ...*

In the summer of 1803, twelve-year-old Ben Crocombe discovers the family boat has been attacked by smugglers in Wringcliff Bay. Floating with the remains of the fishing net is a musical box with the portrait of a French girl inside.

Who can the girl be and how does her musical box come to be in England at a time when a French invasion is imminently expected?

Buy the book at Marcham Village Shop or online  
[www.asplashofmoonshine.info](http://www.asplashofmoonshine.info)



**SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!**

**Tuesday, 13th November 2 - 3.30pm**  
**Tuesday 27th November 2 - 3.30pm**  
 As usual, we meet at 62 North Street, Marcham.



Songs you probably know. Tea and Cake afterwards. Look forward to seeing you!  
 Christine Whild, 62 North Street Marcham Tel 391270

**MARCHAM SCHOOL**  
**CHRISTMAS FAYRE**  
**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November 6-8 pm**

- TURKEY ROLLS & SNACKS
- BEER & WINE AVAILABLE
- Visit Father Christmas
- Face and nail painting
- Children's Arts & Crafts
- Children ONLY Store!!
- Christmas Cards & Gifts
- Tombola
- Homemade cakes
- Bingo and more games!
- Raffle—prizes include Miele Vacuum Cleaner, Fallowfields Cream Tea for 2, Fitness and Karate vouchers and more!

All friends and family welcome. Please come along.

*Marcham School PTA thanks you for your support*

**Children FREE**  
**Adults £2—includes a mince pie and mulled wine, tea or coffee.**

**Come and see me!!**

**MARCHAM FOOTBALL CLUB**

Both village teams' indifferent start to the season has continued over the last month. The first team have shown in patches what they are capable of whilst the Reserves are taking a bit of time to get adjusted to the pace and fitness and skill levels of teams in Division 3. The first team travelled to play well fancied Dorchester on Sept 22nd and really should have come away with more than a point. Marcham found themselves 2-0 up going into the last 10 minutes of the game with goals from Johnny Lloyd and Wez Coster. However a very soft penalty and then a last minute equaliser by Dorchester gave them a share of the spoils. On the same day the Reserves travelled to Childrey Reserves and were on the wrong end of a 7-0 scoreline. The following week Marcham travelled to Drayton and lost by 3 goals to 1 in what was a truly dreadful game to watch. Both teams huffed and puffed without any semblance of football on show. Marcham had what looked a perfectly good goal chalked off just before half time and in the 2nd half hit both the post and the bar but it was Drayton who were surprising victors. The only consolation for Marcham was the return of last seasons top scorer Shane Northcott who marked his return with a goal. The Reserves went down by two goals to nil at home to Hagbourne United.

On the 6th October the 1st team played host to Warborough United in the second round of the North Berks Cup in what was their first home game of the season. What a difference a week makes as the team put on their best performance of the season so far to win by 2 goals to nil, a scoreline which flattered our visitors. Goals scored by Johnny Lloyd and Mathew Banks. Division 1 pace-setters Faringdon Town await in the next round. The Reserves made the long journey to play Kintbury Rangers Reserves and went down by 6 goals to 4 in what was a highly entertaining match. Reserves scorers were Michael Bloomfield, Leighton Jackson, Russ Comley and Seb Crowley. Saturday 13th Oct saw in form Ardington visit the Anson Field. Over the next 90 minutes both teams put on a great advert for North Berks football as twice Ardington went ahead only to find Marcham hitting back on both occasions. Marcham's scorers were Johnny Lloyd and Tom Coates. With another good crowd in attendance they were royally entertained in an action packed game which could have went either way with Ardington probably more upset with the final score of 2-2 after twice finding themselves ahead. The Reserves travelled to Stanford in the Vale and came away with an excellent point in a game which finished 1-1. The Reserves scorer was Oly Ealey with his first goal for the club.

**Fixtures**

Nov	Marcham First Team	Marcham Reserves
3	Lambourn Sports Reserves 1400ko	AG Kingham Cup Saxton Rovers Reserves 1345ko
10	Dorchester 1400ko	Hagbourne 1400ko
17	Drayton 1400ko	Faringdon Reserves 1400ko
24	Ardington 1400ko	Nairne Paul Trophy Benson Reserves 1345ko

LINDSAY MUDIE, Chairman, Marcham Football Club

**MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB**

Although the playing season is now over, other activities are planned. A Club Dinner is son to be held at a local hostelry and, also, the OCA is holding an Association Presentation Evening at Drayton Golf Club this month. It is intended to report on these events in due course.

Please contact Trevor Hill (391321) for information relating to the club - including playing or umpiring for Marcham. **CSB**



November 2012

**MADAGRAMS by Jay**

Answers from last month...

THIRD TEE = THE RIDE Tubney

DO FAX FOR ROD = OXFORD ROAD Frilford

GO, DRAW MY IDEA = DAIRY MEADOW Garford  
(these include village initial)

A CHILL DOCTOR = COTHILL ROAD, Cothill

The 2012/2013 "All-in-One Just-For-Fun" quiz pack will be out soon only £1

**FOR SALE: HOUSE IN LONGFIELDS**

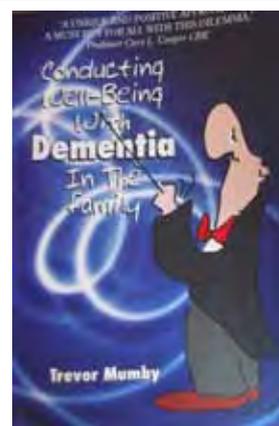
Longfields is a group of rented and shared ownership houses built as a rural exception site and supported by the Parish Council. There are restrictions as to occupancy, and the houses are, in the first instance, for local people. One of the houses is available for sale at a price of £147,000 for a 70% share and approximately £115 per month rent on the remaining 30% share. If there is any local person interested in acquiring this property then please contact Liz Fitzsimmons at the Rural Housing Trust on 01462 742099 or email [liz.fitzsimmons@ruralhousing.org.uk](mailto:liz.fitzsimmons@ruralhousing.org.uk). Further information is available on the Housing Trust's website

[www.ruralhousing.org.uk](http://www.ruralhousing.org.uk)

**Are you caring for someone with dementia, do you need some positive ideas to help you and those you care for?**

Trevor Mumby has written "Conducting Well-Being With Dementia In The Family" - a very accessible book with a useful reminder card to carry with you, not just for dealing with people with dementia but in everyday life.

Available in Marcham Village Shop or from Trevor direct [www.mumbys.com/familyfirst/](http://www.mumbys.com/familyfirst/)



**EMERGENCY CARERS' SUPPORT SERVICE** is a support service for adult carers of adults in Oxfordshire. They can provide experienced staff to look after the cared for person if the carer has an emergency and is unable to do so. Just call 0845 050 7666 for more details and register your details.

**ABINGDON DRAMA CLUB**  
Presents  
**GREAT EXPECTATIONS**  
*By Charles Dickens*  
*Adapted by Neil Bartlett*  
*Directed by Eileen Bagshaw*

Wednesday 21st – Saturday 24th November 2012, 7.30pm  
Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon

Using only Dickens' extraordinary words, Neil Bartlett has created a powerful stage version of this much loved story. His inventive and atmospheric adaptation brings to thrilling theatrical life this classic exploration of childhood terrors and hopes and adult dreams and regrets. Eileen Bagshaw directs with a love and understanding of the material, that adds a new dimension to this timeless classic. Great Expectations will be performed in the Tickets £8 (concessions £7; children £6) from The Bookstore, Abingdon Precinct or book online [www.abingdon-drama-club.com](http://www.abingdon-drama-club.com)

# A Community Led Plan for Marcham

## Thank you!

Yes, a big thank you to all those people who found the time to fill in our questionnaire over the last few weeks. We have now had questionnaires back from more than 90% of the houses in the village.

We are also very grateful to the nineteen people who were kind enough to deliver the questionnaires and to then keep going back anything up to half a dozen times to collect them. Luckily the weather was usually pleasant, and the people of Marcham were almost always glad to see you once they were sure you weren't trying to sell them something.

## The cat ate my questionnaire

The best thing about going from door to door collecting questionnaires was meeting people and hearing their encouraging comments. Out of a village of more than 1200 adults we only came across a tiny handful of people who were unhelpful, and most people were very positive about the whole process. Some people struggled to find the time to fill in their answers while others were ready the first time we called back. There was the occasional excuse that any teacher would have found familiar, and even one questionnaire where the cat had obviously tucked in - luckily we can still read the answers.

## It's not too late ...

Are you one of the few people who hasn't quite got round to filling in a questionnaire? If so, it's not too late - you can still fill one in, even if you can't lay hands on the first one we sent you. Just give us a ring (details below) and we can pop another questionnaire through your door. We really would like to get a response from everyone in the village.

## What comes next

- ◆ Once we have all the data in a computer we will identify the main trends in the answers.
- ◆ The responses to the questionnaire will be used to create a Plan for how Marcham can be

improved during the next five years.

- ◆ Every household will receive a printed copy of the village Plan and an analysis of the answers people gave.

## Find out more on our website

If you would like to see more details about what we've done so far and what we're doing next, then please visit our website:

[www.marchamforward.org](http://www.marchamforward.org)



## We need your help

Now we have all these questionnaires, there's just the small job of typing the data into a computer! Each questionnaire has the equivalent of about 170 questions (it probably felt like more), and with responses from well over a 1000 people we want to spread the job amongst as many volunteers as possible.

If you are comfortable using a computer and could spare us a few hours over the coming weeks then we would be most grateful. We will provide the means to type the data into your own computer, and a bundle of questionnaires which are anonymous, as we have now removed the back sheets. You can spread the job over as many sessions as you wish, and come back to it whenever you have a spare half hour.

Could you spare a little time to help? If so, please give one of us a ring - the details are below.

To volunteer to help with typing,  
or for a new questionnaire,  
please contact:

Jim Asher (tel 01865 391727) or  
David Walton (tel: 01865 391239)

== marcham forward ==

**VIVIENNE CRIPPS**

Vivienne Cripps has a naturally kind, warm, and caring nature; and she had wanted to be a nurse virtually from the moment when she could first form thoughts and ambitions. This desire shaped her course through school and college, and led to her joining the Red Cross as soon as she could. At the earliest opportunity after completing her schooling, she started her training at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Stanmore. She entered the world of starched caps, aprons, capes, Sisters and Matrons and thrived on it. Her graduation as a State Registered Nurse in December 1966 was a proud day both for her and her parents; as well as a source of joy for her friends and relations.



Leaving Stanmore, she moved to the Hammersmith Hospital to continue her general training. Here her knowledge was broadened in more ways than one, as her room in the Nurses' Quarters overlooked one of the wings of Wormwood Scrubs prison – although she did also live in a large house in Notting Hill as well! She eventually completed her training at the end of July 1969.



After the Hammersmith Hospital, Vivienne worked for a time both at the new hospital at Northwick Park, Harrow; and also as a Dental nurse. However, marriage and children soon took up a lot more of her time and she became a full-time mother and housewife.



In July 1978 Vivienne and her family arrived at Abingdon, when her husband was posted to the RAF Station. There then followed an intense period with a young baby, and looking to find a house to buy. This culminated in the purchase of her house in Marcham. As her home-life settled down in a new routine, Vivienne found that she could resume her nursing career by working part-time for BUPA, both at the Acland Hospital and also on home visits. She also did some work at the John Radcliffe 2 Hospital. It was the home visits, though, that saw her driving to large houses all over Oxfordshire, and some of Berkshire, at all hours of the night and in all weather conditions. She met some scary conditions in some lonely houses at the dead of night, but she also met some very nice people, some of whom became very good friends. Her most memorable encounter, though, was when she was introduced to Prince Charles, who made a personal visit to the person she was looking after.

When her youngest son started at secondary school, Vivienne felt that she could now spend more time nursing and return to the NHS. Consequently, she went to work on the Pain Relief Clinic at Abingdon Hospital. She enjoyed this work and found it very fulfilling, so it was with some regret that she decided not to move with it when the Clinic moved to the Churchill Hospital. Instead Vivienne, along with some other nurses, transferred to the Community Hospital side of Abingdon Hospital on Ward 1.

During the following 20 years or so, Vivienne has been mainly on Ward 1, although when situations have demanded it, she has worked on Ward 2 and has also helped out by working at Wantage Community Hospital and other sites within the Primary Care Trust (in its various forms) over the years. In October 2012, after nearly 25 years' service, Vivienne retired from nursing ... but not from caring.

**Happy Retirement, Vivienne!**

**Gift Fair and Table Top Sale**  
**Southmoor Village Hall**  
**2.00pm Saturday 10th November 2012**  
**Free Tea/Coffee and Lots of Stalls to Browse**  
**Entrance 50p**  
**In Aid of Tubney Church**

In Aid Of Cancer Research  
**BAZAAR**  **CANCER RESEARCH UK**  
**Sat Nov 17th 10 till 2pm**  
**Raffle drawn at 1.30**  
**Hanney War Memorial Hall**  
**Craft Stalls, Christmas Decorations,**  
**Jewellery, Books, CDs, DVDs, Toys,**  
**Toiletries, Christmas gifts, Refreshments**

*THE SOBELL CHRISTMAS GIFT FAIR*  
*RADLEY COLLEGE*  
*Saturday 24th November 10am – 5pm*  
*Sunday 25th November 10am – 4.30pm*  
*\* Over 60 stalls \* Refreshments \* Unique Gift Ideas*  
 Come and support Sobell House Hospice Charity  
[www.sobellhospicecharity.org.uk](http://www.sobellhospicecharity.org.uk)  
 Entrance £5 Concessions £2.50

**FOR CHARITY**  
 With Christmas in mind Donald and Jean Creasy would like to remind you that Donald has a good many turned wooden items available for sale. All proceed are for charity. If you would like to see the bowls, candlesticks etc. Please ring 391398 and visit us at 14 Mill Road.



# All Saints' and St. Luke's Parish Page

Dear Friends,

I have been deeply saddened in recent weeks by the two headline disclosures of the accumulating evidence of abuse by the late Jimmy Savile and the performance-enhancing drug abuse of Lance Armstrong [the 7 times winner of the Tour de France]. Honesty, integrity, and truth are three of the foundations of our society, and all three are sadly in short supply in the cases mentioned.

The absence of these three foundations only leads to mistrust, scepticism, suspicion and a great deal of harm – both to individuals and society as a whole.

In our main services in All Saints' we are currently revisiting God's framework for life, as summarised in the Ten Commandments, and lived out by Jesus himself as a pattern for wholesome living. It is challenging, soul-searching and revealing – and throws light on much that is disturbed and distorted in society these days. We let go of this framework at our peril.

This month we remember with deepest gratitude those who made the ultimate sacrifice in two World Wars and subsequent conflicts – serving God and country. It is a most moving annual occasion. It reminds me powerfully of the ultimate sacrifice of Christ – whose death on behalf of us all was a demonstration of God's love. Even when we lose sight of God's foundations and framework for life, when we mess up and get things badly wrong, the cross of Jesus demonstrates that there is a way out, a new beginning, a fresh start – if we are willing to turn around, accept his forgiveness and walk his way.

There is much to ponder in this month of Remembrance. In the daily struggle that is life, may we know God's faithful helping hand, hold on to his love in Jesus, and receive his strength to be and become those whose lives increasingly reflect those qualities that underpin a wholesome society – for the wellbeing of all. May we remember well.

With my warmest greetings,  
Revd Richard Zair

## Prayer for the Month:

Heavenly Father, thank you for the cross of your Son. Help us to remember his death with gratitude, and to live in the light of his resurrection. Amen.

## NOVEMBER Events:

Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov: Men's Breakfast - 8.30 am at the Sports, Scouts and Social Club

Sun 11<sup>th</sup> Nov: **Remembrance Sunday**  
**10 am in All Saints** followed by prayers and wreath-laying at the Wayside Cross at just after 11 am, and,  
**12 noon at Garford** - a service at Garford War Memorial.

Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec: A special service for the recently bereaved at All Saints at 3.30 pm

## Parish People:

We celebrated the marriages of Jos Rowe & Sally Hibbert (13<sup>th</sup> Oct) and Jo Offer & Christy Rawnsley (19<sup>th</sup> Oct).

## Regular services:

**Sundays at All Saints':** 10 am and 6 pm

**Wednesdays:** 10.30 am Holy Communion at Duffield Place

**Sunday at St. Luke's:** See Remembrance Sunday

## Contact:

Revd Richard Zair 391319

41 North Street, Marcham ([r\\_zair@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:r_zair@yahoo.co.uk))

Jill Rowe *Youth and Children's Minister* 07811 165351

Deborah Flint *Churchwarden* 391056

Janey Cumber *Administrator* 391327

Jenny Warwick *PCC Secretary* 392076

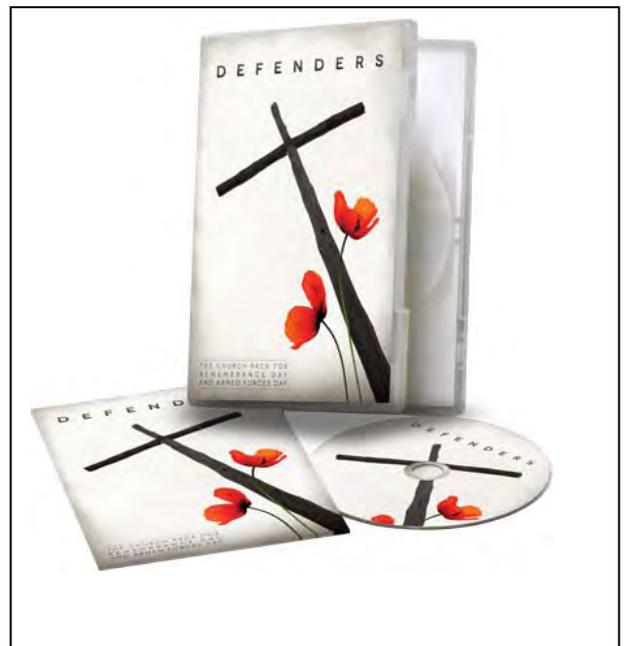
[www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk](http://www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk)

## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

**Wednesday December 19<sup>th</sup> – 2 pm – "Give it Back, Mak!"** Riding Lights will be performing their latest Christmas production at All Saints. The performance will be free for all primary-school aged children living in the parish (Marcham School are attending as part of the school day). For more details contact Jill Rowe (07811 165351) or Jenny Warwick (392 076).

# Defenders – Faith in the Forces

Sunday Nov 11<sup>th</sup> is Remembrance Day – the day when many of us pay homage to the soldiers, sailors and airmen who lost their lives during military conflict. Traditionally, as is reflected on Marcham’s own war memorial, our focus is on those from our nation who lost their lives during the two world wars. Increasingly today we also focus on those who also lost their lives in more recent conflicts – Suez, The Falklands, the two Gulf wars, Iraq and Afghanistan, amongst others. But what about those who continue to serve today, often far from home and away from loved ones? As in every walk of life, there are many in the armed forces who find a real and living faith that helps them through the fear and uncertainty.



I have been a Christian for around 18 years now and during that time I have found that often, people come to an active faith in God during times of personal trial and torment. I have met former drug addicts who have put their faith in Jesus Christ during the absolute lowest points in their lives. They have cried out to God for deliverance and with that cry for help, that dramatic turning to faith brought a vivid transformation that has even seen sudden miraculous ends to their addictions. I have come across former alcoholics whose testimonies tell the same story and East End gangsters whose lives have similarly been turned around by the power and love of God.

Many others like myself have come to a major crossroads in life, that has brought them to their knees both in a metaphorical and a literal sense. They have come to a point of surrender, where faith in God comes initially at a point of desperation but then becomes a solid anchor and purpose for life. For many like me, a living faith in God has brought about not just spiritual transformation but new life that gives real direction – a faith that quite simply undergirds all of life – a trust in God that brings purpose and meaning to our existence.

At our service on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November, whilst we shall certainly be remembering the fallen and injured from past wars, we shall be watching some video clips of serving military personnel who have found a vibrant and solid faith in God – a faith that for some has carried them through the trauma of the battle field. This solid faith in God enables many sailors, soldiers and airmen to cope, not just with the stress of battle situations but also to live their whole lives with God at the helm, enabling them to cope not just with the extreme but to live their everyday lives to the full.

So often, we can feel that we do not need God. Life might be hunky dory – a bed of roses. Financially we might be doing fine, with food on the table, a warm bed to sleep in - life lived in seeming security with friends and family around us. In times like these, which might describe most in our community, we never give God a thought because life seems full and sweet. But we have a God who wants to be with us through those good times, as well as through the stressful situations. God wants us to live our lives for Him, with Him at the helm, helping us to cope with the tough times and to be with us in all that we go through.

Why not join us on Sunday 11th November at 10.30, as we reflect not only on the lives of military personnel that have been lost to war and remember the lives shattered by conflict ..... but also to listen to the testimonies of those in the forces whose lives have been given over to following God .....and then to reflect on what this might mean for us?

Every blessing

***Keith Mersh, Pastor Marcham Baptist Church***

For more information, contact  
Keith Mersh - Pastor 01865 391881  
Bill Dyer - Elder 01235 814986

## Speakers in October

4 Nov	-	Roger Frith
11 Nov	-	Keith Mersh
18 Nov	-	Dave Page
25 Nov	-	Paul Revell

**Join us on Sundays at 10.30am,  
or call Keith if you want to chat  
about life and faith.**