

# Marcham & District News

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

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



December 2014 Vol: 36 No: 12

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ Lands End to John O'Groats see page 5



◀ 1st Marcham Guides cook up some WWI recipes see page 15



◀ ▲ Little Angels to the rescue and skipping for fun! see page 15



**Wynne McKay** receiving a bouquet from **Ruth Mander**, Chair of the Parish Council, in recognition of her 100th birthday. A lovely gesture which was very much appreciated. The first of many celebrations!



▲ It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas ... teddy is reading old copies of MADNews by the fire and Robin has found his festive jumper



December		
2 Tue	International Giving Tuesday	17
2 Tue	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20	
3 Wed	ILC Open Day Assistive Technology, Peachcroft Centre, 10.00-15.00	17
4 Thu	Midweek Walk, The Crown, Marcham, 12.30 lunch / 13.30 walk	11
5 Fri	Marcham School Christmas Fayre, 18.0-20.00	15
6 Sat	Tubney Church Gift and Table Top Sale, Southmoor Village Hall, 14.00	17
8-14	Crisis at Christmas Party time	11
9 Tue	Singing is Good for You, 14.30 – 15.30	11
10 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3
11 Thu	Marcham WI, Denman College, 19.30	7

15 Mon Deadline for ALL ENTRIES for January 2015 MADNews		
16 Tue	Marcham Baby and Toddler Group Christmas Party, All Saints' Church 09.45-11.15	15
16 Tue	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20	
21 Sun	Carols by Candlelight, All Saints' Church, 18.00	
21 Sun	Carol Service, Marcham Baptist Church, 10.30	
23 Tue	Singing is Good for You, 14.30 – 15.30	11
24 Wed	Crib Service, All Saint's Church, 16.00	
24 Wed	11pm Midnight Holy Communion, All Saints' Church, 23.00	
30 Tue	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20	
31 Wed	New Year's Eve: Colin Shore, Ex-Servicemen's Club, Marcham, 20.30	5

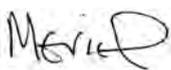
Details of events may change after publication, please check with the relevant organisers before attending events.

Dear Readers

It's that time of year again, when every newspaper, TV programme, magazine or website is telling how to make this Christmas "really special" or "perfect"... well I thought about adding to the miles of words, but, luckily for you (and me) I thought again because all I really want to say is

Happy Christmas  
(and thanks for  
reading MADNews!)

until next time



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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.

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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.

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PCSO Andy McCormack C9461  
PCSO Myra Stokes (for Garford)  
Just dial 101 (non-emergency)

**CRIMESTOPPERS**

Call 0800 555 111 (anonymous calls)

**NHS NON-EMERGENCY**

Call Free from any phone - 111

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

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**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**NEWS**

**Community Facilities in Marcham**

The Parish Council has been looking at two scenarios, what happens to the provision of a hall should the Anson Trust's plans come to fruition, and what happens if the Trust's plan to sell part of the field to a developer does not progress. The Parish Council has put forward an offer to the Trust, for the Trust to transfer the ownership and running of the Anson Field, and the buildings on it, to a village charity which has similar objects to the Trust, and where the Parish Council is the Trustee. This would provide an opportunity for the Anson Trust to work with the Parish Council, and the Charity Commission to transfer that part of the Anson Trust's objects which relate to community and recreational facilities, and to concentrate on the Trust's other objects using all of its remaining assets. The Council is looking forward to the Trust's response.

**A34 Chilton to Milton Drainage Maintenance Scheme**

The highways Agency will be carrying out essential maintenance works to the drainage system along the A34 between the A4130 Milton Interchange and A4185 Chilton junction. This scheme aims to reduce the risk of future flooding and supports the County Council's proposed improvement schemes at Chilton and Milton. Work is likely to start in December and continue until June 2015. There will be a 24 hour narrow lane in effect with a temporary 50 mph speed limit. There will also be occasional full overnight closure of the A34 between the two junctions with traffic diversions in place. Further information can be found at [www.highways.gov.uk/a34didcotdrainage](http://www.highways.gov.uk/a34didcotdrainage)

**A415 – Clearance of cycle track**

The Parish Council has learned that the County Council is planning to clear the cycle track. This should involve chopping back the grass areas which have taken over the tarmac, clearing the weeds etc. The work is in the County's programme, and it is hoped that it will be carried out in the near future.

**North Street – The Gap – Litter Bin**

The Parish Council has been planning to fund a litter bin at the junction of North Street and The Gap. Unfortunately the Vale of White Horse District Council will not add the bin to its usual collection rounds at the moment, believing that the quantities of litter at this location are not sufficient to require a bin. The Parish Council is keeping the matter under review.

**Parishioner of the Year Award**

The Parish Council is again inviting

nominations for the Parishioner of the Year Award. This is to recognise the efforts of local people from anywhere within the parish who have 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. Would anyone who wishes to submit a nomination, please contact the clerk (whose details appear below)? Send a short statement of not more than 200 words, as to whom he/she wishes to nominate and the reasons why the person should receive the award.

**Reminder School Admissions: Entry to primary or infant school September 2015**

If you are a parent or carer of a child born between 1st September 2010 and 31st August 2011 then you need to apply for a primary school place now. Go to [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/admissions) for further information. The closing date for applications is 15th January, 2015.

**Reminder - Mobile Libraries**

The County Council is proposing that the mobile library that visits the village, stops just at Sweetbriar. If you are a user of the mobile library service and are affected by the proposed change or if you are interested in the library service, and wish to have your say, then visit <https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult/ti/mobilelibraryserviceconsultation/consultationHome> where you can take part in the consultation.

**Planning Applications**

P14/V2373/O Erection of 40 dwellings with associated means of access, car parking, new footpath links, amenity space and landscaping on land off Sheepstead Road. The Parish Council objected to the application as the proposal sited the housing well beyond the built up area of the village. In addition there were known problems with land drainage and sewerage in the village as well as lack of capacity at Marcham Primary school.

**Date of Next Council Meeting:**

Wednesday 10th December, 2014 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)

**The Council wishes everyone  
a happy Christmas**

Dear Editor

I would like to offer three observations on Anthony Bradley's letter in last month's MADNews.

Firstly, the Charity Commission has previously approved the principle of the sale of half of the Anson Field and of the Institute site on more than one occasion. Secondly, the charitable scheme which governs the Arthur Anson Trust (to give it its proper title) explicitly envisages such a possibility. Thirdly, it is extremely unlikely that Christopher Jessel, the solicitor whose advice the Anson Trust received, was not aware of or misunderstood the case to which Mr Bradley refers.

**COLIN BOUGH**

Dear Editor

In recent years there has been a recurring, although intermittent, sewer smell in the southern half of North Street which even gets into houses.

If you get this problem, and Thames Water cannot help, phone the Vale Environment Protection Officer (Tel: 01235 540 543) who may be able to investigate further.

Dear Editor

About a month ago there was discussion on Marcham Village Facebook page of a perceived need to provide more facilities for the youth of Marcham, and I offered to look into the possibility of setting up some kind of youth club to meet this aim.

Since then, I have had a number of discussions with individuals who currently run youth organisations or who have done so in the past, including talking to some of those involved in running the youth club in a neighbouring village. What I have learned is that there is much, much more to it than simply finding a hall and publicising the club. Setting up a youth club will involve research and data gathering, planning, organisation, discussion, negotiation, lobbying and fund-raising.

Then the club will need a management committee, a constitution agreed by all stakeholders. Then volunteer staff will need to be recruited, organised, training will be required, checks carried out, a paid activity leader may need to be hired. The list goes on.

I have learned that setting up a youth club will require an awful lot of enthusiasm and energy to get it off the ground, but more than that it will require a huge amount of time devoted to it if it is to stand any chance of success. Over the past four weeks, it has become clear to me that although I may well have the enthusiasm needed, I simply do not have the time required to carry this through.

I feel it is better that I lay my cards on the table now, rather than put it off past

December 2014

**ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL 2014**

Malcolm and I would like to say a big thank you to everyone in Marcham, Garford, Frilford, Tubney and Cothill who so generously gave to the Poppy Appeal. This year we raised the grand sum of £4809.00 which was almost £1,000 more than last year. Thank you to all the House to House collectors and to all the establishments that had static boxes, without your help we could not have raised this amazing sum.

Many thanks again  
*Christine and Malcolm Denton*



Dear Editor

Just thought we would let you know how we got on with our Lands End to John O'Groats cycle now that we have totalled up the fundraising. We managed to raise over £7,500 for Vasculitis UK and completed the cycle in awful weather in 9 and a half days.

For all the ups and downs of the trip, check out our blog:

<http://wewillcycle500milesandwewillcycle500more.wordpress.com>

We'd like to thank everyone in the village who donated to us and supported us through the country. **GEORGIA UPJOHN**

Christmas and into the New Year, all the while knowing that I will not have the time available to meet people's expectations. Certainly I am enthusiastic about getting involved in providing our younger residents with social activities in the village, but I do not have the time that will be required to lead the project. If anyone is as enthusiastic as me and does have more time available, please do get in touch.

**PETER KIDD**

**JOAN STEPTOE**

We would like to thank everyone for all sympathy cards, letter and kind words, sent to us on the loss of our mother, Mrs Joan Steptoe. Thank you to everyone who came to our mother's funeral on Thursday 2 October, and thank you to Revd Richard Zair for a kind and loving service. We would especially like to thank everyone for their donations for the Marcham Pre-School.

**Michael and Robert Steptoe**

Thank you for all the wool donated to me after my appeal in last month's MADNews. My needles will be working overtime over the winter months and beyond. I have met a lot of people and been able to say *Thank You* to them, but I have also found several bags left outside my house so thanks for those as well and I am sorry to have missed you.



This wool will all be knitted for the **Helen and Douglas House** charity shop in Abingdon and they really do appreciate all I take to help raise funds for their charity. Seasons Greetings and Thank You All  
**JEAN DIX**

MADNews is online: [www.madnews.co.uk](http://www.madnews.co.uk)

**GEORGE LLOYD**

**Doreen and family** would like to thank everyone who attended the funeral, for the cards, best wishes and donations to the Stroke Ward at the JR2. A special thank you to Sharon Henderson and Sandy Nicholls for all their help at the gathering at the Ex-Servicemen's Club.

**FOR SALE (SORT OF!)**

**AOC Monitor 21.5"** as new, (cost £80) and **Canon Scanner**, both hardly used, hopefully in exchange for generous donation to our incomparable Marcham Community Shop. Tel: 391 462



MARCHAM AND DISTRICT  
EX-SERVICEMEN'S CLUB  
NORTH STREET, MARCHAM



**BOOK EARLY - TICKETS AVAILABLE AT CLUB**

Christmas draw  
Saturday 13th December  
31st December 8.30pm 2014  
**COLIN SHORE**  
Music From The 50s To Today  
Entry £5.00 Each  
Ploughman's Plus Free Raffle  
Using Entry Ticket Number  
Members And Members Bona Fide Guests  
Membership available  
Contact a member of the club committee

## Marcham WI

### Next Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, 11th December

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Venue:** Denman College

### Christmas Party

Come along to our **Christmas Party** on 11th December when we will be joined by the **Didcot Divas** who will be entertaining us with their singing. Please bring along a dish for our 'bring and share' Christmas buffet supper and a present for the bran tub. This month we will also be holding a **'Mystery Bottle Raffle'** - if you would like to contribute a prize, please wrap your bottle and bring it along to the December party. Don't forget to wear something sparkly and we'll look forward to seeing you there.

For any questions, new members or visitors, contact Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com



### Time for change: West Oxfordshire needs your help to solve the A40 congestion crisis

Do you use the A40 between Witney and Oxford?

Duncan Enright, Councillor for West Oxfordshire is currently hosting an online public consultation on the website [www.myEnvolve.com](http://www.myEnvolve.com). The concerns raised will be presented to Oxfordshire County Council, as a case for reforming traffic infrastructure in the region. The survey will be active until Christmas, and local residents and commuters can also show their support for the A40 campaign on Twitter, using the #A40HorrorStories #tag. You can also upload their experiences of the road to a Facebook page - Councillor Duncan Enright for West Oxfordshire. Every story submitted will make a difference!

If you have any feedback on our campaign or require any further information, please visit [www.duncanenright.com](http://www.duncanenright.com) or contact Callum Dunbar at myEnvolve, on 0789 4428466 or [callum.dunbar@myenvolve.com](mailto:callum.dunbar@myenvolve.com).

### MSSSC: Marcham Sports, Scouts & Social Club The pavilion & field off Morland Road



### Quiz Night



There is no quiz night in December, the quiz master is resting!

**HUMBUG, HUMBUG!**

*We look forward to seeing you at the club*

## MARCHAM PLAYERS With Great Pleasure

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the starting of the First World War, Marcham Players held a "With Great Pleasure" evening, under the title "Wartime" - any war, any time.

The readings ranged from Rudyard Kipling's "The Roman Centurion's Song" to Spike Milligan's "Hitler - My Part in his Downfall" via Tennyson's "The Charge of the Light Brigade". One ambitious member had written his own description of the lead-up to the First World War gleaned from diaries written at the time, and in two ten minute readings, managed to draw together all the strands of an extraordinarily complex situation.

There was laughter and sadness evoked by the prose and poems - as the saying goes (almost) "laughter shared is laughter doubled and sadness shared is sadness halved" All who attended will have left with a sense of an evening well spent in congenial company.

If you have any suggestions for topics for future "With Great Pleasure" evenings, please ring Joey Maclean (01865 391242)..

For more details about joining in with the Players, call Dave Hutchinson 01865 391964 or Joey McLean 01865 391242.

[www.marchamplayers.co.uk](http://www.marchamplayers.co.uk)

December 2014



## ED VAIZEY WRITES...

We've all noticed in recent years that there seem to be ever more special days and weeks set aside to remind us of particular good causes. I've come across two recently which particularly struck a chord with me.

The first was SUDEP Awareness Day on 23rd October. This day was set up by SUDEP Action, a charity which was set up by Jane Hanna OBE and which is based in Wantage. SUDEP Action campaigns to raise awareness and understanding of the risk of Sudden Death in Epilepsy. I was very pleased indeed to be invited to become President of SUDEP Action and to host an event at the House of Commons on 23rd October which helped MPs to understand both the risk of sudden death for those with epilepsy, and the relatively simple steps that can be taken to reduce that risk quite significantly. It was sobering to hear from families who had been bereaved through sudden death in epilepsy and inspiring to see how determined they are to help others learn from their very sad experience.

If you, or someone you know, has epilepsy even in a very mild form, please do take a look at the website [www.sudep.org](http://www.sudep.org) and spread the word about this important but little-discussed issue.

Adoption brings challenges, immense rewards and can make a huge, positive difference to the lives of children and those who adopt them. National Adoption Week, which took place from 3 - 9 November, made all of those points and more.

This is particularly important for children who often wait the longest to be adopted - sibling groups, children with disabilities, children aged 5 and over and children from some black and minority ethnic backgrounds. The campaign encouraged us all to think about, and hopefully come forward, to adopt these children and give them a loving home. As you'd expect, there's a website for this week too where you can find more information about adoption - [www.nationaladoptionweek.org.uk/adoption](http://www.nationaladoptionweek.org.uk/adoption). If you've ever wondered if this might be something to consider, why not take a look at that too. It seems that every day or week now has a special label or significance. Not all are relevant to many of us, but some really do bring an opportunity to highlight an important issue and make a real difference.

As ever please feel free to contact me on any matter at the House of Commons, SW1A 0AA, 020 7219 6350 or [vaizeye@parliament.uk](mailto:vaizeye@parliament.uk). Email is the quickest and most reliable way to get in touch, as I keep a very close eye on my emails and can reply very quickly. I also send out occasional general interest emails about developments in the Wantage and Didcot Constituency. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please do email me at [vaizeye@parliament.uk](mailto:vaizeye@parliament.uk) or sign up at [www.vaizey.com](http://www.vaizey.com). Surgery details can be found at [www.vaizey.com](http://www.vaizey.com).

And finally, as the festive season approaches, may I wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous new year.

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

Contact Ed Vaizey MP by	
Post	The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
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Web	<a href="http://www.vaizey.com">www.vaizey.com</a>
Tel	0207 219 6350



*Dear Santa,  
Please can we have  
a village hall?*



Bank Balance  
£18,021

Local Events  
£11,328

Donations  
£6,814

2014 - 2015 Membership  
Voting: 72 Junior: 18

5p Coins  
5590

Marcham  
Community  
Group



## Community facilities – progress so far

Last month, we reported on the MCG Open Meeting and the proposals, strongly supported by those present, to work with other organisations in Marcham on plans for new community facilities independent of Anson Trust. These proposals are being carried forward by the Community Facilities Steering Group.

### Community Facilities Steering Group

Four meetings have been held of the Community Facilities Steering Group, which is drawn from the Parish Council, the Parochial Church Council, the Baptist Church, Marcham School Governors, Marcham Scouts, Sports and Social Club, and Marcham Community Group. This group is working on details of a range of options and outline plans for new community facilities. The group met with the Anson Trust in October to understand their proposals in more detail.

The Parish Council has drawn up a list of all sites that could be considered as possible in principle for new facilities. These are being reviewed to understand their suitability, in terms of their location, access for parking, and potential planning issues. We plan to short-list sites likely to be most suitable and to look into these in more detail. The Steering Group has started work on the outline specifications for new facilities, so as to establish some basic requirements. We have made a good start, although there is much still to do.

The Steering Group regards communication as important and will continue to report progress towards new facilities in future MAD News editions. We will regularly update representatives of all known community organisations in Marcham about progress, and provide opportunities to become involved and have your say in the process.

We will need a range of skills and a lot of hands on deck to deliver these plans. If you are keen and available to help with this process of developing new facilities, you may have skills that we need, and we would be pleased to hear from you.

In the meantime, we wish all of you who have supported MCG a very Happy Christmas, and we look forward to a good and productive New Year in 2015, one in which real progress will be made. Let's hope that Father Christmas will bring real hope of Community Facilities to Marcham!



Progress so far - community facilities in Marcham



Throw a party, raise money, help homeless people  
Crisis Skylight Oxford is calling on community groups, families, schools businesses, to host a



**Christmas party with a difference from December 8 - 14, to raise money in support of its work with homeless people across Oxfordshire.** Being homeless is a cold, miserable experience and never more so than in Christmas party season. By dedicating your Christmas party to Crisis, you could help someone to make a fresh start.

You can download a free Crisis Christmas Party pack, full of all sort of ideas and everything needed to throw a party at home, school, or in the office, from

[www.crisis.org.uk/christmasparty](http://www.crisis.org.uk/christmasparty)

You can contact your local Christmas Party team on 01865 263 911. email [christmasparty@crisis.org.uk](mailto:christmasparty@crisis.org.uk)

Register online and for more information you can visit [www.crisis.org.uk/christmasparty](http://www.crisis.org.uk/christmasparty)

To make it super easy, if you want to give Louise Esplin a call, she will fill in the registration online for you!

Tel 01235 850115/07775 678237

**My Beauty Room Award Winners!  
One of our MADNews advertisers  
has triumphed at The Venus Awards  
(see their advert on page 14)**

My Beauty Room attended the Gala Ceremony at The Oxford Belfry on Friday 14th November for The Venus Awards recognising local business women. Alison Day, FFHT, proprietor was runner up in the Small Business of the Year category, sponsored by NatWest Business. Charlotte Cardosi MFHT, who has been employed at My Beauty Room for over 3 years won Employee Of The Year, sponsored by Heart Thames Valley.

Alison said 'We had an amazing night at The Oxford Belfry, surrounded by inspirational women who all run fantastic businesses. Charlotte was stunned when her name was announced as winner but we all knew she would win! She deserves this award for her commitment and dedication to My Beauty Room, all our clients are absolutely over the moon she won.'

Charlotte said 'I am delighted to have won and want to thank all our clients who voted for me. I had a wonderful evening surrounded by my amazing colleagues and wonderful family.'

Charlotte will now go to the National Finals to be held in January in London.

**Some Catty Remarks by Jay**

*I like cats. I like birds.*

Cat owners, please get your moggy a collar with a bell on it for Christmas. That way the birds can have nine lives, too.



**MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK.**

**Midweek Walk, Thursday, December 4th.**

For this winter walk we will stay near at home so that we can sample the lovely new menu at The Crown in Marcham. We will meet at the usual time of 12.30 for lunch and start the walk at 1.30, so join us then outside the Crown in North Street if you prefer not to eat before walking. We will be exploring some of the Jubilee Paths and our local public footpath network.

Members free, non-members £1. We always welcome new walkers. Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and further details.



**SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!**

2.00-3.30 pm Tuesday 9th Decmber  
2.00-3.30 pm Tuesday 23rd December

We meet in the common room at Duffield Place. Come and join us, you will be sure of a warm welcome ... and tea and cake!

Phone 391270 for more details  
*Christine Whild*



**MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB**

Field maintenance is, of course, an ongoing "outdoor" activity for the Club with the purpose of providing satisfactory playing facilities for next Season.

As may be imagined, however, there is usually little to report regarding outdoor cricket matches in England during winter months.

However, an item does come to mind; thus, one Member recalls a fancy-dress match, played on a Boxing Day some years ago, in which he kept wicket wearing, among other things, flippers and possibly other items of diving equipment.

It seems that results of this fixture are somewhat hazy...

Please contact Trevor Hill (01865 391321) for any information relating to the Club, including playing or umpiring for Marcham.

*CSB*



**Marcham Village Shop  
and Post Office**  
**We have lots of lovely festive  
food... and all the normal things  
you'll need too.**

**Come in and support the shop!**

**Mon - Fri: 07.30 - 18.00**  
**Sat: 07.30 - 13.00**  
**Sun: 08.00 - 13.00**



**Our Christmas Closing Times**

DATE	SHOP	PO
24th Christmas eve	noon	noon
25th Christmas day	closed	closed
26th Boxing day	closed	closed
27th Sat	1 pm	1 pm
28th Sun	1 pm	1 pm
Monday 29th	1 pm	1 pm
Tue 30th	1 pm	1 pm
Wed 31st	1 pm	1 pm
Thurs 1st Jan	Closed	Closed
Friday 2nd Jan	1 pm	1 pm
Sat 3rd Jan	1 pm	1 pm
Sun 4th Jan	1 pm	1 pm
Monday 5th Jan	back to normal hours	

**Sat 6th Dec is support small business day!**

**Last recommended posting dates:**

- 3 Dec Asia, Far East & Singapore
- 4 Dec Australia
- 5 Dec Africa, Caribbean, Central & South America, Middle East
- 8 Dec Cyprus, Eastern Europe, Greece
- 9 Dec Canada, Poland
- 12 Dec USA Static BFPOs
- 13 Dec Western Europe (excluding Greece, Poland)
- 18 Dec 2nd Class** and Royal Mail Signed For®
- 20 Dec 1st Class** and Royal Mail Signed For®
- 23 Dec Royal Mail Special Delivery Guaranteed®

**Avoid the queues and buy your stamps early!**



## COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT TO FRACK OR NOT TO FRACK...

The trouble with so many of today's issues – Europe, Immigration, the Environment and so on, is that there is an ocean of misinformation out there. I am one of those attempting to sail a boat across this ocean in an effort to reach an island where sensible, achievable, evidence-based solutions are found. Solutions on which I can base my opinion. Solutions I can support with my vote.

The County Council held a full meeting dedicated to the subject of "Fracking" in general and "Fracking in Oxfordshire" in particular. Having waded my way through a flotilla of placards (I may as well stick to my metaphor) demanding "No to Fracking", we then heard a number of speeches demanding "say No to Nuclear" "say No to destroying our countryside" and even "say No to wind farms". It seemed the easiest thing in the world is to say "No" to something.

However, there is an undeniable fact that in the next 10-20 years we, particularly in the UK, will be facing an "energy gap". If we wish to keep the lights on, we have to fill this gap. We are told that additional nuclear power takes too long to happen, that renewable energy technology is growing too slowly, and that traditional gas and oil supplies are running out. We are told that here is a looming threat of the UK being forced to rely on energy from politically unstable parts of the world. Saying "No" to anything which might offer a solution, or even part of a solution is simply not an option.

So in this ocean of misinformation, sensible people are looking earnestly for a few "islands" of certainty. Islands where "real, undeniable facts" are to be found. For what it is worth (and to stimulate urgent debate) here are the 5 "islands" I have found, on which I will be developing my opinion on "Fracking".

The latest UN report on Global warming and its causes I find utterly compelling. Even for those who wish to argue that global warming is not man-made, to do nothing about it is a risk I would not wish the world to take. If we do not cut world carbon emissions to zero by 2100 it will be too late. I do not want our great, great grandchildren to blame us for doing nothing about it now.

A bit of good news (lost in all the current "anti-EU" rhetoric). Under the leadership of the UK Department of Energy and Climate Change, all EU nations have just signed up to an agreement to cut their Carbon emissions by 40% by 2030. Still a long way to go, no doubt, but an initiative which will encourage/shame other nations to follow suit.

Say "No" to coal. Not here, not in Europe, not anywhere. The impact on carbon emissions alone of coal burning are unacceptable and make the current targets unachievable. It is possible that carbon capture and storage technology will advance to make coal burning an option in the future – but certainly not in time to do anything about the energy gap. Fracking has much less impact on C emissions than coal. Given the shortage of options, it should certainly be considered in the mix. Unfortunately UK geology is nothing like US geology and the amount of gas which could be economically gained in the UK could only be a small part of the solution to the energy gap. In Oxfordshire, it is likely that there are only a small handful of sites which would be suitable. For the UK at least, the answer lies in a short term mix of energy sources – some of which will make the emission targets harder to achieve but we have to keep the lights on.

We need to keep up the pressure to develop renewables of all types – wind (offshore and onshore), solar, tidal and others. Anything or anyone who impedes this is, in my view being irresponsible.

### Joining the 21st Century.

For those that have still not had enough, I am now the proud owner (is that the right word?) of a "Blog" which you can follow on:

cllrichardwebber@wordpress.com!  
**RICHARD WEBBER CLLR, OCC**

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or 01235 534001

December 2014

## DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

### Anson Field

An extraordinary meeting was called on the 13th October to discuss how we move forward with the Anson Trust and their proposals for the Anson Field. The meeting was chaired by the County Councillor, Richard Webber, and was attended by two representatives of relevant Marcham groups: the Parish Council, MSSSC, Marcham School, Marcham Church, The Baptist Church. The MCG and Anson Trust, while I acted as the secretary taking the minutes. Clearly, I can only write a rather brief account of the meeting as some actions are at a delicate stage.

A calm and constructive atmosphere pervaded with each group being able to voice its own concerns and hearing those of other groups. A general discussion resulted in the main risks and opportunities being identified, and it was agreed that the problems of the Anson Field, and the shortage of village recreational and social facilities go back a long way - more than ten years. It was felt that the Anson Trust proposals have severe constraints and the divisive nature of these ideas must now be addressed and solutions found as a matter of urgency. Each group's role was identified and the Parish Council, as the elected body responsible and answerable to all the residents of Marcham, was encouraged to take a more proactive role in seeking a solution. Having decided the immediate actions to be taken, it was agreed that further meetings would be called in the future. So watch this space.

### S106 and CIL

You will be aware that a new way of raising money from new development is about to come into action next year called CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy). It does not replace the New Homes Bonus but it does replace much of the S106. I think that many of us have been very disillusioned by the way the latter has worked, as the village's desires on how to spend the money raised from new developments in their village seems to be considered last, and therefore we are not getting the infrastructure in our village that we know we need. Clearly localism is not working. So it is with some pleasure that I can report that CIL will give the Parish Council complete control of at least 15% of the funds raised! (25% if you have a Neighbourhood Plan). Furthermore, this money is non negotiable! So at last we have some say over what we want for our village.

### The Local Plan for consultation

We now know that Milton Heights has been spared the prospect of expanding by 1400 homes from its present 200. It may be small comfort, but Marcham too, has been spared a further 200 homes south of Packhorse Lane. Milton and Marcham's gain is at the expense of north Abingdon and the Green Belt. The AONB area (area of outstanding natural beauty) around Harwell is also under severe threat. VWHDC is accepting the entire SHMA (Strategic Housing Market Assessment) figures in an effort to get its Local Plan accepted more quickly. This, they argue, will protect us from future speculative planning applications. The County Highways department have said that the road network can cope. We need to hope that they are both right!

It is a moot point whether or not the damage will already have been done before the Local Plan is in place.

### Surgery

Family commitments have meant that we had to change the date of our surgery at Marcham Shop from Saturday Dec 6th to Saturday Nov 29 from 9-11am. We apologise for any inconvenience.

**CATHERINE WEBBER, CLLR**

01235 534001 or catherinewebber@hotmail.co.uk

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS  
TO YOU ALL**





**Marcham School Christmas Fayre**  
**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December**  
**6-8 pm**  
**Everyone Welcome!**  
**Free Entrance for Children**  
**Father Christmas and Secret Store**  
**and much more**

**MARCHAM BABY AND TODDLER GROUP**

We meet every Tuesday at All Saints' Church, Marcham 09.45-11.15. It is a great chance for the children to play and explore. Many of our toddlers have now moved on to nursery so we have lots of space to welcome new parents/carers with little ones. First week is free then £2 per family which includes refreshments. Our **Christmas** party is on December 16th, there will be music, food and a visit from Santa. We are a very friendly group so please come along, bring a friend if you wish. Sue Gibbling [Treasurer]. **Do come and join us!**

**1st Marcham Guides**

At Guides this term we have been doing lots of things connected to World War I. It's been a very full programme which has included a visit from **Lt Col Jackie Fletcher** who gave a talk about life in the Army today; **Vic North** gave an informative presentation about trench foot, including graphic pictures!; **Paul Mawdesley** gave a short talk on the history of WWI; **Malcolm and Christine Denton** visited to tell us about the Poppy Appeal; and **Jane Belcher** helped in the making of our Poppy Wreath, which was laid at the Wayside Cross on Remembrance Sunday. We are very grateful to everyone who gave their time to visit us. We also had a very enjoyable day out in London visiting the Imperial War Museum and the Tower of London, including the iconic London Poppies!



In between all of this, some of our older Guides, who are working on their Baden Powell Challenge Awards, have led activities including a military-style fitness session; reflection-based activities, where the girls were encouraged to think about life during WWI; and a WWI themed cooking competition, which saw some very tasty sweet treats made from WWI recipes including shortbread, Anzac biscuits, trench cakes and welsh cakes. And plenty of WWI-based games have also been played. We also found time for a presentation from **Maisy Summers**, who told us all about her international trip to Mexico back in the summer. It was great to hear about her adventures and see the lovely places she had visited; along with carrying out community work at a food bank. To finish off the year we will be, once again, ice skating at Millets!

**JILL ROWE, SALLY FATHERS, TRISH SUMMERS**

**MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS**

Merry Christmas and thank you to everyone who has helped Marcham Pre-School in 2014.

If you are interested in a place at pre school please contact us on 01865 392 101. [marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk), or via our website [www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com](http://www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com)



**Baby Room**

Well it has been a very busy few months here at Little Angels in our baby room. We really enjoyed colouring and our craft his last month, especially colouring in our Pudsey bear pictures. You may have also noticed our tree and leaves on our window which we went for a walk to go and find. Everyone was very excited to see the new layout of our room which has provide dus with new places to explore and new toys to play with. Even more exciting is that a lot of us have just started walking or crawling which is great, so we have been spending lots of time walking to and from the adults and to the toys we wish to play with!



**Pre-school Room**

We rescued a hedgehog, a baby hedgehog was found in the field, we brought it into the warmth and gave it water. It was great to see and learn about hedgehogs with their spiky backs and how they curl up. A lovely woman from the RSPCA came over and collected our hedgehog to take it be safe and looked after. She talked to us about how important it is for us to make sure in the winter months there are suitable places for hedgehogs to live and keep warm.

We also spent time on Remembrance day remembering those who had fallen, we all sat for our 2 minutes silence and made a poppy and a model cenotaph to remember. Even though we may be little it is important for us to learn and start to know that people have sacrificed for us and still doing so.

We have also been practicing for our carol corner we are involved in December, we have been singing our Christmas songs for the last few months and are ready to perform. This also means we have been making sets and outfits for us all. All of us are very excited and we are looking forward to letting you know how it went in the January edition of MADNews.

**Afterschool club**

We are back this term and have been having a fab time. Before it got dark we have been enjoying ourselves outside making dens, football matches, potion making, and currently our favourite thing is to skip! Everyone has become a skipping fanatic and teaching Helen and Nicola new ways to skip, such as the pretzel! We made a poppy wreath on Remembrance day and spent a lot of time looking and talking about what this meant to us.

Now we are back this also means our football sessions are back with coach Tom, all of us are putting on our football kits and learning great new ball skills, plus coach Tom makes us learn other skills as well!

If you would like any further information about Abingdon Little Angels Nursery, After School Club, Holiday Club or Art Club please feel free to call in or telephone us on 07516 474287 or email [info@abingdonlittleangels.co.uk](mailto:info@abingdonlittleangels.co.uk)



**Constables Ham, Mill Road**

Grazing land available on a short term let. Should anyone be interested in the grass keep then please contact Mrs. L. Martin at 90 Howard Cornish Road 01865 391833 or email clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk for further information.



**Pop in and see how much fun volunteering in Marcham Village Shop can be.**

**Try a few shifts and see if you like it. You don't need to commit to a regular day or time - just when it suits you**

**INTERNATIONAL GIVING TUESDAY**

Tuesday December 2nd 2014 is International Giving Tuesday and Rosie's Rainbow Fund has joined this global day of giving, which encourages people and businesses to give their time, money or voice to charity for one day. #GivingTuesday is a charitable antidote to the pre-Christmas spending frenzy, encouraging people to devote one day amid the holiday shopping rush to doing good. The movement asks individuals, businesses, schools, and organisations to do one simple charitable act on 2nd December, and it is hoped that #GivingTuesday in the UK will replicate the successes of the US, where they have seen a huge spike in donations on the day.



The trustees and volunteers of Rosie's Rainbow Fund, the Maidenhead-based charity supporting hospitalised children at The John Radcliffe Children's Hospital, the Royal Berks and The Stoke Mandeville Children's Hospital are taking the lead locally in the Thames Valley by inviting the staff of businesses and retailers throughout the Thames Valley to hold a Rainbow Lunch!

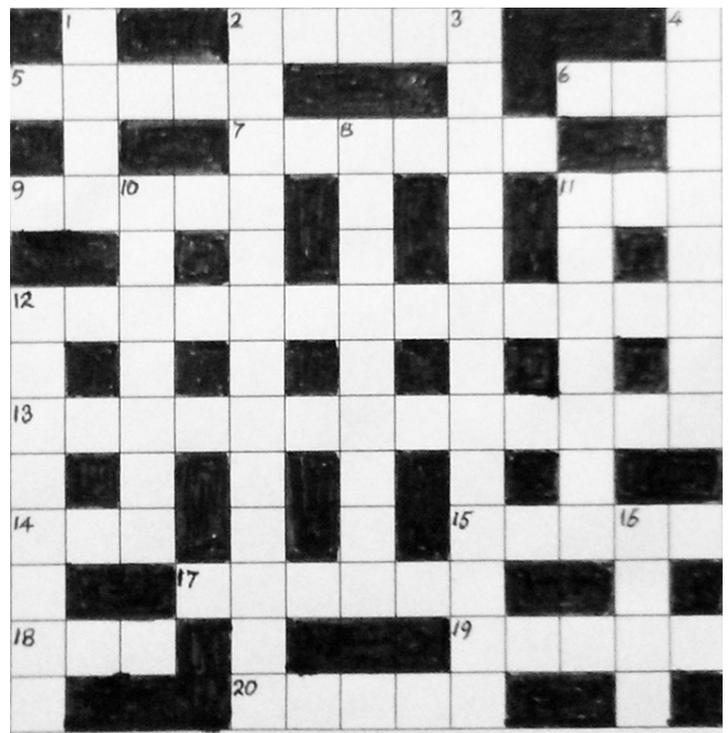
To participate, each person is asked to donate £3.00 and to bring a colourful food item for a shared office lunch! The charity has a Pinterest Board with ideas and recipes for rainbow-coloured food <http://uk.pinterest.com/RosiesRainbow>, but the dish could also be as simple as a zesty salad or colourful slice of pizza. Rosie's Rainbow Fund invites all participants to take 'Selfies' of themselves and their lunches and post them to the charity's website ([www.rosiesrainbowfund.co.uk](http://www.rosiesrainbowfund.co.uk)), Facebook ([www.Facebook.com/Rosiesrainbow](http://www.Facebook.com/Rosiesrainbow)), or Twitter accounts (@rosiesrainbow).

A team of judges will then choose the best-presented and most colourful luncheons from across 6 Thames Valley-area locations. Winning teams will receive a free pizza dinner at a restaurant in their area. Donations can be made directly to Rosie's Rainbow Fund's accounts at Just Giving or Virgin Money, or through their website.

[www.rosiesrainbowfund.co.uk](http://www.rosiesrainbowfund.co.uk)

**#GIVING TUESDAY**

**CROSSWORD BY ALISA**



**ACROSS**

- 2. Like an elf (5)
- 5. Alphabetical List (5)
- 6. Bird (3)
- 7. Imitation (5)
- 9. Stage scenery (5)
- 11. Vehicle (3)
- 12. Keeping fit at East Hanney (6.7)
- 13. Stall at Tubney Church sale (5.8)
- 14. Animal (3)
- 15. Attentive (5)
- 17. Not long ago (6)
- 18. Tree (3)

**DOWN**

- 19. Bird (5)
- 20. Sports person (5)
- 1. On one occasion (4)
- 2. Thursday morning activity (8.5)
- 3. Sportsperson (7.6)
- 4. Power of seeing (8)
- 8. Little white winter visitor (9)
- 10. A winter sport (7)
- 11. Military unit (7)
- 12. Part (4)
- 16. In these times (8)

**Guideposts** Our next **Open Day** will be on Wednesday, 3 December from 10 am to 3 pm. The theme for this open day will be **Assistive Technology**. We hope to have a range of suppliers coming with aids such as pendant alarms, medication reminders, key safes etc. Local organisations such as Carers Oxfordshire, dementia information services, the Sleep Apnoea Trust will also be coming. As always all are welcome to attend our Open Days. Just drop in. Refreshments available. Guideposts Trust Independent Living Centre Peachcroft Christian Centre, Lindsay Drive, Abingdon OX14 2RT Call 01235 856212 [www.guidepostsilc.org.uk](http://www.guidepostsilc.org.uk)

**Tubney Church Gift and Table-Top Sale**  
 Southmoor Village Hall  
 2.00 pm Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2014  
 £1 entrance to include a cup of tea or coffee  
 Books, Cakes, Cards, Craft, Games, Gifts,  
 Produce, Raffle, Toys, White Elephant  
 plus Private Table-Top Sales.  
 If you would like a Table Top. £5.00 per table contact Rosemary Kitto on 01865 390 466 [rosemarykitto@gmail.com](mailto:rosemarykitto@gmail.com)

## A FRIDGE ON AN ICE CUBE?!



On 12th November, we saw on the news euphoric scenes at the European Space Agency, when after 10 years travelling through space, the Rosetta lander Philae (the size of a domestic appliance) touched down 4 billion miles from earth, on comet 67P that was moving at around 84,000 mph. One online cynic quipped "*we spend all that money, time and expertise to land a fridge on an ice cube!!*" But while this was undoubtedly an amazing achievement in scientific and engineering terms, I'm sure the online cynic was not the only one to wonder - *Why?*

The news broadcasts gave us a clue when they commented about the supposition that billions of years ago, comets could have brought water to an ancient and rocky dry earth ..... water that scientists see as essential to the self genesis of life. The news broadcasts also mentioned the possible discovery on the comet of organic molecules, the building blocks of life that evolutionists think could have seeded life on earth.

Water covers 75% of the earth's surface and its deepest point is 11km below sea level. According to the US Government Water Science School website, there are around 1.4 billion cubic kilometres of water in, on and above the earth. So, if our water were to have come from comets, I wondered how many crashing into an early earth it would have taken. Comet 67P is reckoned to be comparatively large at 4.1 x 4.3 x 3.5 kilometres - roughly 62 cubic kilometres. Scientists' investigation into the data so far sent back by Philae lander indicates that when they tried to drill into the surface of the comet, it could only penetrate a few millimetres. Maybe this indicates that it is not solely ice but possibly also contains significant amounts of rock..... But even if 67P is all ice, it would have taken 22 million comets of the size of 67P to have provided the water on earth. .... Is that really plausible ???

But what about the possible discovery of organic molecules on comets ..... molecules that some consider could have started life on earth ..... organic molecules that Philae lander possibly 'sniffed' in comet 67P's atmosphere? But even if the supposed basic building blocks for life on earth could have come from comets, it's a huge leap from that to even a basic single celled creature capable of self replication..... and if that huge evolutionary leap were not big enough, imagine the transition from single celled creatures to human beings!! .....unbelievable with the huge complexity of the human body. But it's not solely the question of physical change that is the problem.

Every cell in your body teems with DNA - essentially a storage mechanism for the intelligent information that gives each cell the ability to self-replicate. But is it reasonable that this information came from lifeless, inanimate matter? ..... Surely only an intelligent mind ..... An intelligent Creator could give rise to intelligent information?

And what about human intelligence? .....Where did our ability to think come from? ..... And what about our emotions and our creativity? ..... Is it really reasonable that you and I, with our ability to reproduce, to think, create and love originated from organic molecules from outer space, that came from lifeless matter out of nowhere?

Many scoff at the existence of God because He cannot be seen, or empirically tested. But this massive universe and life on earth, with all of its interrelatedness, complexity and intelligence can only be explained in one of two ways.

1. as The Bible says ..... '*in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth*' and that after creating everything else '*God created mankind in his own image*' ..... Some might call that unbelievable
2. Or the alternative of gradual evolution from ape-like creatures ..... that gradually had mutated from more primitive life forms ..... that had developed from organic molecules ..... which had self-generated from lifeless matter ..... that came from nowhere created by nobody..... now **that** surely is fanciful!!

Emotions, will, intelligence and creativity surely cannot come from inanimate matter ..... nor life from non-life?

God is loving, creative and intelligent and He created mankind in His own image, not that He has literal hands, or eyes ..... but creating us in His image, essentially means that we too have the ability to love and create and think as He does. It was God who gave those space scientists the intelligence and the creativity to achieve what they did in landing on Comet 67P, as well as the obvious emotions shown as they leapt in jubilation at their success.

Do join us for our carol service on 21st December at 10.30, to sing some traditional carols, eat some mince pies and celebrate the incarnation .....the arrival of God Himself in human form, born as one of us, ultimately to point the way into a restored relationship with our Creator.

**Keith Mersh    Pastor Marcham Baptist Church**

**01865 391881**

or contact Bill Dyer (Elder)    01235 814986

### Speakers in December

- 7 Dec        - Bob Hazell
- 14 Dec      - Janet Quarry
- 21 Dec      - Keith Mersh - Carol Service
- 28 Dec      - People's Praise

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

## CAROL SERVICE

**SUN 21 DEC - 10.30**

**MINCE PIES AND CHRISTMAS  
CAKE TO FOLLOW**



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

Dear Friends,

No doubt you are already inundated with pre Christmas adverts and the hype that surrounds the commercial side of the great festive season! I saw an advert on the TV the other day relating to Christmas 2015! The sad thing is that such hype can detract from what should be a genuine celebration, a festival worthy of the name, and an event that is spiritually of huge significance to the whole human race.

We quite frequently hear or use the phrase "We need some light shed on this", especially if we feel we are not possession of all the information we need, and feel 'in the dark' about something. Christmas is all about 'shedding light'. Jesus came as 'the Light of the world'.

Light is all important to the whole of the natural world, and is equally important in our appreciation and understanding of spiritual truths. Jesus came to bring light on our understanding of God, about who He is, about how we relate (or don't) to Him and why, about the present experience of God in our lives, and how we can know God's presence and peace in our lives day by day. The coming of Jesus is historically of immense significance, and His promised return of equal importance [something we reflect upon in the Advent season of the church's calendar].

Sadly some people turn their backs on such light, and refuse to acknowledge its significance, preferring to walk away – into darkness. It grieves God's heart.

This Christmas at All Saints' we shall be celebrating Jesus the Light of the world, and rejoicing in the joy and wonder of His coming. Do join in – you are most warmly welcome!

A very happy Christmas to you all, and those you love,

With my warmest festive greetings,

**Revd Richard Zair**

### **Prayer for the Month:**

Gracious God and Father, thank you for sending Jesus into the world, and for the light of His coming. Help us to celebrate this momentous occasion this year, and please give us a deep thankfulness for this powerful demonstration of your love and care for the whole human race. Help each of us to make room for Him in our hearts this Christmas, so that we may experience the peace only He can give. Amen.

We warmly invite you to any or all of our services in the Parish Church of All Saints', and to our monthly service at St. Luke's in Garford.

### **Regular services:**

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

**St. Luke's, Garford: Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December** at 4pm – Family Candlelight Carol Service; **Christmas Day 10.30am** – Family Communion Service

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

### **December Dates:**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>:** 8.30am, Men's Breakfast at the Sports and Social Club

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>** – Crafts for Christmas – Children's workshop. 10.30am-12pm at Garford Village Hall

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup>:** 10am -12pm, The Christmas Experience @ Duffield Place Lounge. All Welcome

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas carols and songs at The Crown

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Christmas Family Movie, 3pm @ All Saints



### **Parish People:**

#### **Funerals:**

Our thoughts and prayers go to the families and friends of Sonia Edwards,

#### **Baptisms:**

Our prayers are with Nia and Heath Hughes and Jack Samways and their families after their baptisms.

**Contacts:** Rev. Richard Zair 391319 (r\_zair@yahoo.co.uk)

Parish Office: parish\_office41@yahoo.co.uk

Jill Rowe *Youth and Children's Minister* 390885

Tim Jack *Churchwarden* 01865 864900

Tamsin Gilbert *Administrator* 391319