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WOMEN'S WORLD
DAY OF PRAYER
10.30 FRIDAY 4 MARCH
SEE PAGE 7



Diary for March

3 Thu	Music at the Unicorn: The Willows, 19.00	9	14-19	Abingdon Artists Spring Exhibition, St Nicolas Church, Abingdon, 10.30 – 16.30	5
4 Fri	Women's World Day of Prayer, All Saints' Church, 10.30	7	16-19	Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf, Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon, 19.30	9
8 Tue	Marcham Society, All Saints' Church, 19.45: The Letcombe Brook Project	9	17 Thu	Marcham WI, Denman College: AGM, 19.15	7
8 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14-15.30	5	18 Fri	MSSSC Quiz – CHANGE OF DATE, Anson Field, 20.15	7
9 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3	19 Sat	ABRAIL 2016 Model Railway Show, White Horse Tennis Centre, Abingdon, 10.00 – 17.00	13
10 Thu	Midweek Walk, The Fox Inn, 12.30 lunch / 13.30 walk	7	20 Sun	Deadline for March MADNews, 17.00	
10 Thu	Mobile Library, Sweetbriar 14.35 – 15.00		22 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14-15.30	5
12 Sat	Councillors' Surgery, Marcham Village Shop, 09.00 – 11.00	13	24 Thu	Mobile Library, Sweetbriar 14.35 – 15.00	
14 Mon	60+ Bowls Session, KBS Bowls Club, 11.00-12.00	5	25 Fri	Good Friday Walk, Starts Scout Hall, Lashford Lane, 09.30-10.00	5

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

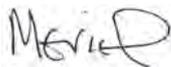
Dear Readers

Spring is sprung, the grass is ris.
I wonders where the birdies is.
They say the birds is on the wing.
Ain't that absurd?
I thought the wing was on the bird.

Anon

Great news that Marcham Parish Council has given the application for a new hall and development of the field the thumbs up! I am just hoping that the Vale's planning committee take the 180 comments submitted into consideration when it comes before them soon.

Happy Easter
Until next time



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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 Myra Stokes (for Garford)
Just dial 101 (non-emergency)

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Call 0800 555 111 (anonymous calls)

NHS NON-EMERGENCY

Call Free from any phone - 111

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Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ
Tel: 01235 534001
richard.webber@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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catherinewebber@hotmail.co.uk

For other councillors go to

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Parish Council Vacancy

The Council has been advised that a formal ballot is not required to fill the vacancy on the Council, so the Council can now proceed to co-opt. If you have ever thought about being involved in the community and would like to be considered for the vacancy then please contact the Clerk who can provide information as to eligibility requirements, what is involved and how to apply.

Thames Water for Wildlife Project

Britain's wildlife is under threat. This is especially true in freshwater areas such as ponds, streams, rivers, and lakes. Freshwater Habitats is organising a volunteer survey which aims to build up a picture of water quality and pollution across the catchment of the River Ock. If you wish to assist with the gathering of information which can help to change the way landscapes are managed, then further information is available at freshwaterhabitats.org.uk.

Annual Meeting of Electors

The Annual meeting of electors will take place in May. This is a meeting of parish electors, where you can hear reports from the Parish Council and village school on what has been happening over the last 12 months. All electors are entitled to attend and ask questions or raise issues affecting the parish. The Council is currently arranging the event, and it is likely that this year the guest speaker will be the Environment Agency who will outline the proposals for the Oxford Flood Relief Scheme and discuss how far they have reached with the studies for Abingdon.

Planning Applications

The Council has considered the following planning applications:

P15/V3042/O Conversion of the Institute to residential accommodation, erection of 5 houses on the Institute site. Erection of 5 houses on the Anson field, plus community building, multi-use games area, rearranged sports pitches and nursery building in the Anson field

The Council supported the application. P16/V0266/HH Erection of 4th bedroom on first floor over existing single storey extension at 25 Packhorse Lane. The Council supported the application.

Vale of White Horse Local Plan and Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Plan

The Vale of White Horse Local Plan hearing has now finished, and the Inspector is considering any modifications to the Plan. His report is awaited. In January the County Council submitted its Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Core Strategy to the Secretary of State for examination. The hearing for that Plan is

likely to be held in September.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday 9th March 2016 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

Any member of the public is most welcome to attend any of our meetings. There is a section near the start of each meeting for public participation, where any member of the public is able to speak about any topic which is relevant to the work of the Parish Council (for a maximum of three minutes). Members of the public are also welcome to observe some or all of the rest of the meeting.
www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Frilford Parish Meeting
2016 AGM
will be held on

Wednesday April 20th,
7pm-9pm

Abingdon Prep School

UPDATE FROM GARD

There was an alarmist headline on some of the local newspapers which stated "Reservoir is Inevitable". This conclusion clearly



originated from a Thames Water briefing given to a specialist water resources panel of the Institution of Civil Engineers which was then reflected in their conclusions. I have written to the President of the Institution of which I am a fellow, backed up by our two water resources experts who are also fellows, challenging the statement and pointing out the inaccuracies of the panel's conclusions. It appears that the panel had not cleared the text properly with the Institution. We look forward to an explanation.

GARD continues to hold Thames Water to account and is pressing hard to ensure that the alternatives to a reservoir are properly investigated in the next 2 years before a decision has to be made on the major water resource the Company seeks to meet London's water demand over the next 25 years.

NICK THOMPSON
Hon Chairman GARD



I have a number of Grow Bag Ring Culture pots that I am no longer able to use. They are free for collection, if you are interested contact bjc32@btinternet.com.

FOR SALE

Athelstan Upright Piano
Good condition, will need tuning.
FREE - new owner collects from Morland Road
Tel: 01865 391366

Ladies Bike - very good condition with helmet and lock - £60 Marcham 391881 - please call after 6 March

WANTED

Bradstone bricks (the honey coloured ones, different sizes)
Few square metres to match up an extension project
Tel: 01865 391366

Community Facilities Steering Group

The planning application to the Vale for new community facilities is making its way through the formal planning process. The period of public consultation closed on 3rd February. By then, over 180 comments had been posted on the Vale website – almost all of them positive. CFSG is very grateful for the widespread support that so many of you have given to the proposal – a big thank-you to everyone who responded to our call and made comments. The Planning Office will take note of this positive support – it will have an impact.

There are issues still to be resolved and CFSG is working to ensure that these are addressed effectively. We hope to hear soon when (and if) it goes to Planning Committee.

Internal details of the hall are still to be planned and CFSG will be working over the next month or two to develop a functional specification for these requirements, so that we can brief the architect to develop an internal plan for the building.

The Community Facilities Steering Group (CFSG) was set up with the clear objective of developing plans for new community facilities in Marcham and is made up of representatives from local groups with an interest in village facilities. If you wish to have more information on the CFSG, or you think you can help, please contact Jim Asher (391727).

CFSG - Opportunities without Obstacles



Abingdon Artists Spring Exhibition

From Monday, 14th March to Saturday, 19th March, 10:00am-4:30pm

You are invited to Abingdon Artists Spring Exhibition to be held in St Nicolas Church, Market Place from 14-19 March 2016 to enjoy and buy new and original art work, cards and unframed work from the browser by talented local artists.
www.abingdonartists.org.uk



New 60+ Bowls Session

Kingston Bagpuize and Southmoor Bowls Club will run a new Bowls Taster Session for people aged 60 and over in partnership with GO Active Gold. GO Active Gold is a new project that will support people in rural areas, aged 60 and over, to live more active lifestyles by setting up local, affordable physical activity sessions that are fun, friendly and for all abilities.



The 60+ Bowls Session will include basic instruction and an outline of the outdoor game. Fun, friendly and welcoming in its nature, the session is ideal for beginners, new starters, and anyone who wants to try the game.

The sessions will run at Kingston Bagpuize and Southmoor Bowls Club, Old Oxford Road, Kingston Bagpuize, OX13 5AP for six consecutive Mondays, 11am-12noon, starting 14th March 2016 and is £2 per week.

To book your place or for more information please contact the GO Active Gold team. Email: goactivegoldvale@southandvale.gov.uk Tel: 07717 346351

Kingston Bagpuize and Southmoor Bowls Club welcomes people of all ages to become members. Please contact Brian Garside on 07802355124 for details.



SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!

2.00-3.30 pm on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays
Tuesday 8th and Tuesday 22nd March

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

24th Abingdon Dry Sandford Scout Group (Thames Ridge District) Good Friday Walk, 25th March 2016

This traditional Good Friday walk is for both children and adults, and you don't have to be connected with the Scouts in order to participate! Due to the adverse weather we have been experiencing, sensible footwear is required. Unfortunately the route is not suitable for pushchairs due to the fact that there are several styles and many muddy pathways.

The walk starts from our Scout Hall in Lashford Lane between 9.30am and 10.00am and will take approximately 2½-3 hours to complete. There is a quiz to complete along the route with prizes for the team with the most correct answers! Please remember to bring a pen/pencil and something with a hard surface to rest your papers on. The route will finish back at the Scout Hall where hot cross buns, tea/coffee, etc. will be on sale. There will also be a raffle.

The entry fee is £5 per group (maximum number 6) or £1 per person

Dogs are welcome to join us but MUST BE KEPT ON A LEAD AT ALL TIMES.

Please don't forget your poop scoop bags!!

We look forward to meeting as many people as possible on the Good Friday Walk.

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
The deadline for all personal adverts is 20th of the month.

**MID-WEEK WALK:
THURSDAY MARCH 10TH**

For this month's walk we will go to The Fox Inn by the River Windrush (Map Ref SP204132) between Little and Great Barrington, just off the A40 west of Burford at 12.30pm for lunch. We will be following the Windrush valley visiting Windrush village and the Barringtons in a walk of about 4½ miles starting at 1.30.



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

MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

The Club's AGM was held on 5th February and many matters were addressed and received attention. As was briefly mentioned previously, the Club's OCA Season opens at home with a 1st XI Match against Visitors Chesterton on 30th April.



Also, please remember that Nets will be held at Radley College 19.30 to 20.30 commencing Friday 1st April. All levels are welcome to attend.

As usual, please contact Trevor Hill (391321) for information relating to the Club, including playing or umpiring for Marcham. And finally ... HRH the Duke of Edinburgh once observed 'There is a widely held and quite erroneous belief that cricket is just another game.'

CSB

**Used postage stamp collection
Marcham Village Shop and Post Office**

Gwyneth Goss will continue to collect used postage stamps to raise funds for YoungDementia UK, the locally-based charity which helps younger people with dementia and their families. Please save used stamps from your mail and put them in the collecting box in the Post Office.

- Save any stamps from your post by cutting/tearing them off envelopes
- Please leave no more than 1cm of envelope around each stamp
- Please do not damage the stamp's perforations by trimming too close
- British and foreign stamps taken

Thank you for your support.

To find out more about the charity's work visit the website www.youngdementiauk.org



Marcham WI

Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, 17th March
Time: 7.15pm *Note earlier time*
Venue: Denman College



Our AGM is on 17th March, so come along and choose your President and Committee for the next year. Following the AGM business, we will be welcoming our speaker, Rosemary Kitto, who will be talking on 'The Story of Sarah Jennings'.

Please note the slightly earlier start time of 7.15pm
New members and visitors are always welcome.

For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com

WOMEN'S WORLD

DAY OF PRAYER

10.30 FRIDAY 4 MARCH

All Saints Church - followed by lunch.

Prepared by the women of Cuba.

Please contact Heather: 07985 048198 (number for lunch).



ALL WELCOME!

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

Quiz Night

FRIDAY 18 March

Please Note Change of Date

This month's quiz will be held on Friday 18 March in the Sports and Social Club on the Anson Field, starting at 8.15pm.

Questions are on a range of subjects and aimed at everyone's ability! The quiz nights run on the last Friday of each month.

Teams of up to four people are invited, but if you are alone or a couple, come along, and we could fit you into

an existing or even new team!

Everyone welcome, members and non members. Just turn up on the night for a friendly evening of fun and banter.

Further details from Trevor Hill – 01865 391321

Everyone welcome - members AND non-members

We look forward to seeing you at the club

THE MARCHAM PLAYERS

It's a funny transition time for the Marcham Players. This trusty group await new village facilities with ever increasing optimism but, until Marcham has a stage again, productions prove difficult.



At the AGM in February, several long standing committee members and the chair, Simon Blackmore, decided it was time to stand down. Our thanks go to all of them for their faithful service over recent years. It was therefore agreed to carry on in a simplified form for the next year or so with a reduced committee of 3 members.

We intend to continue organising theatre outings with the occasional "dramatic" get together whilst plans for the new village hall unfold.

For details about joining in with the Marcham Players, call Jenny Warwick 392 076 j.warwick21@tiscali.co.uk

www.marchamplayers.co.uk



SUMMER DANCE

Sat 18th June

Dancing to Nevada

tickets on sale soon!



Please support this event as this will be the last one in social club that has served the Marcham community for many years.

More details next month



Bank Balance
£20,193

Local Events
£11,830

Donations
£8,260

2014 - 2015 Membership
Voting: 72 Junior: 18

5p Coins
6865

Marcham
Community
Group



Community events in 2016

While CFSG is making good progress with plans for new facilities in Marcham (see page 5), Marcham Community Group has been planning the following community events in 2016:

Isis Chamber Orchestra concert in Marcham Church—Saturday 14th May 2016: 7:30 pm

- Handel - Arrival of the Queen of Sheba
- Boyce - Symphony No. 8
- Respighi - Ancient Airs and Dances Suite No. 3
- Handel - Concerto grosso, Op. 3
- Rodrigo - Concerto 'Fantasia para un Gentilhombre' for guitar and orchestra
- Bach - Chaconne for solo guitar

MCG will be providing food and refreshments, with proceeds from the evening going to support community facilities. Please come and enjoy this evening of great music - tickets available from the shop in early May.

Q90B—Saturday 11th June or Sunday 12th June: a community-wide event for all the family, to mark the Queen's 90th birthday. Details are being planned and will be announced soon.

Apple Day—Saturday 15th October: a fun event for all the family.

We will be looking for volunteers to help on the day and in preparations—please contact Jim or Denise Asher on 391727 if you can help. Watch this space in future MADNews issues for further details, and read about these events on the MADNews Facebook pages www.facebook.com/MADNewsUK.

We wish to say a big thank you to all our members for your continued support—it is much appreciated!

Community events in 2016

Marcham Community Group: Company No 7470307 Charity No 1144407
391727 (Jim) admin@marcham.org

www.marcham.org




THE WILLOWS
www.thewillowsband.com
Support: White Horse Whisperers
www.whitehorsewhisperers.com/
Thursday 3rd March
Doors: 7:00pm Music: 7.15pm | £12
Abingdon Unicorn Theatre
Tickets: www.musicattheunicorn.org.uk
& REMADE GUITARS, (Stratton Way) Coxeter House

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf
By Edward Albee
Directed by Mike Ward



ADC - in 3D since 1944

Wednesday 16th - Saturday 19th March | 7:30pm
At the Unicorn Theatre
Telephone: 0845 4636638
www.abingdon-drama-club.com
enquiries@abingdon-drama-club.com



The Marcham Society
All Saints' Church, Marcham
7.45pm Tuesday 8th March

Sally Wallington
The Letcombe Brook Project

Non-members always welcome £2 www.marchamsociety.org.uk
Further details: Sheila Dunford (391439) or Judith Fontaine (391275)

ED VAIZEY WRITES...

I mentioned last month that one of the highlights for 2016 will be the celebrations for HM The Queen's 90th Birthday. A fantastic initiative to help clean up the country for these celebrations is the "Clean for The Queen" weekend. This project aims to inspire a million people to take action and enjoy a few hours together litter picking and making the areas we live in more beautiful. If you know of any individuals or organisations that could help with the events that are taking place between 4th and 6th March please contact www.cleanforthequeen.co.uk



It always gives me great pleasure when I come across ways to encourage and inspire young people. BAFTA are looking for entries to its 2016 Young Games Designer's competition, which gives young people a chance to make and design their own game. The winners will be announced at a special awards ceremony in July, attended by stars of the gaming world. If you or, anyone you know, is keen on gaming entries are now open at www.bafta.org/ygd

Another scheme aimed specifically at young people is being offered by GLL who operate most of the Leisure Centres in the constituency. They are giving out grants of up to £1,250 to help young sports stars with their development. GLL are inviting new applicants from young people under the age of 21, any individual can apply and any sports club or community group that have members that could take advantage of this grant can find the details at www.gllsportsfoundation.org.

This month my mailbag has been dominated by emails and letters about food waste, in particular on UK farms. I know that my ministerial colleagues have been working with charities on how best to prevent this, with one option being to encourage retailers to agree in advance to purchase the whole crop from a specific farm or field, then decide how each vegetable is used based on their size and appearance. This would help ensure vegetables aren't wasted just because they look unusual. The Government also continues to work closely with industry to help forge closer links with redistribution charities across the whole supply chain. It's simply wrong that anyone should go hungry at the same time as surplus food is going to waste.

Other matters that have been raised this month include issues around the use of wild animals in circuses and the BBC's Charter Review period.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any pressing issues that you would like help with. Either myself or one of my team will get back to you as soon as possible and do what we can to assist. You can contact me on any matter at the House of Commons, SW1A 0AA, 020 7219 6350 or dicksonce@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 my office at badyaljb@parliament.uk or sign up at www.vaizey.com.

ED VAIZEY, MP Wantage and Didcot (Conservative)

COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORT**The County Council Budget**

We all knew the day was going to be challenging! *Speeches prepared, dozens of appeals via email and letter to save this....demand that....battle lines drawn up for County Council Budget Day 16th February.....those with most years of experience all agreed this is the most difficult and the most contentious budget in living memory....dire warnings from security staff of*

March 2016

the predicted mood of protesters outside County Hall... all aware that the budget on the table was rejected by most Oxfordshire residents, largely inflicted on Local Government by Westminster... the parlous state of the OCC finances...the legal demand to pass a balanced budget - with more dire threats of the consequences if a budget was not passed.

It was going to be a long day – and might well go on overnight! A freezing morning may have curbed some of the anger in the large crowd of protesters, but the speakers were indeed loud and vocal. And there were some unexpected voices behind the protest – including assorted members of the Cameron family. No closing of Children's Centres! No withdrawal of Bus Subsidies! Save the Health and Well Being Centres! Reinstate the support for all the wonderful voluntary bodies working with any number of social and health issues!

The press were having a field day. If you couldn't sell newspapers in this atmosphere, there was absolutely no future for them. *2 hours of listening to petitions and hear heart-rending appeals from representatives... you need a heart of stone not to be moved. Here we go... gallery packed... three large overspill rooms with tele-feed....*

Debate-time

Last minute defections from the ruling administration.... desperate looks on faces....

suggestion that Party Leaders should go into a room (smoke-filled?) to try to hammer out some sort of deal incorporating at least something of what everyone wanted.. and we still need to get a balanced budget at the end of it. ...was it possible?

Councillors, ordered by the Chairman to retire to party rooms to await the outcome of party leaders discussions. High drama and a bit surreal.... the last time the Lib Dems got involved in anything like this, they wound up losing 49 of 57 MPs ! ...

Party Leaders backwards and forwards to bring back a possible emerging deal to present to their parties...a growing sense that maybe something would be possible after all... the Labour amendments a brave attempt to reduce some of the pain, - a short term sticking plaster maybe- but they might give us a little more time for a long term solution...the Lib Dem proposal to consult on Unitary government for Oxfordshire was a possible long term solution....Eureka!.... very little that could not be agreed!

Two hours later, a written proposal agreed by finance and legal officers and there was a substantive motion to debate. Eureka again!

A comfortable majority could sign up.

Two more hours of debate and yes, this was going to work.... Two votes, one on the amended budget - carried 60 for 2 against... the second on the firm commitment to go for unitary government - carried 59 for 3 against.... And its only 5 o'clock!...

A temporary solution maybe, but it gives us time to get a long term solution. A triumph for local democracy and, an achievement of which we can all be proud. Now, we have to deliver....

RICHARD WEBBER CLLR OCC

SC & Marcham Division.

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or 01235 534001

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT**Action for refugees locally**

Recently, I was very moved by an email I received from a concerned resident in Shippon, who wanted me to raise the plight of refugees with the Vale Council and to encourage it to support the work that is going on in Oxfordshire, so I thought I'd pass on some information to you.

Host Abingdon, a new group which had its first meeting on January 27th, (hostabingdon@gmail.com) has linked up with Oxford City of Sanctuary Host Oxford Initiative to plan a structured welcome for

refugees with a host housing scheme, language teaching and daytime befriending offers. The group is urging the council to support, to give shelter and a fair hearing to refugees and asylum seekers and to accept 10 families under the "Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Programme" announced by the government. Already in Abingdon, St Ethelwolds, a sanctuary for quiet contemplation and meetings which keeps afloat by running a B and B, has offered a twin room with some catering facilities plus the possibility of another room if the finances add up, and a good number of people are pledging support (both financial and practical) for this enterprise. Any emergency accommodation offered has to be passed by Host Oxford (oxford.cityofsanctuary.org) Clearly, it is a very worthwhile enterprise and some of you might be interested to find out more by going on the relevant websites.

Car Parking

As you know, the Vale council has been blessed by the New Homes Bonus, money given by the government for every house that is built as an incentive to encourage councils to build more and more houses. Such a windfall has meant that the Vale sits on a substantial sum of money, and one pledge that they have made in the recent budget is to put £2,000,000 of it into building more car parks in Abingdon and the Vale. People need more and more places to park, don't they? Or do they? Interestingly, California thought this was so and they covered a third of their state with car parks thinking this would satisfy the need. But did it? No. They still need more parking spaces. Oxford has deliberately not put in more car parks to encourage people to use the Park and Ride, or bicycles, or public transport, or to walk. Also, we are all aware of the need to reduce the number of air-polluting cars (not electric) on the roads. So are we right to pile money into more public car parks?

Surgery Dates for your diary

Richard and I will be at the shop between 9.00 and 11.00 on Saturday 12th March. Please do come for a chat if you want to air a view or raise a problem.

CATHERINE WEBBER Cllr VWHDC

01235 534001 or catherinewebber@hotmail.co.uk

Marcham Village Shop and Post Office

Call us...

Shop: 391 993 Post Office: 391 940

Don't forget our new closing times

Mon - Fri: 07.30 - 17.30

Sat - Sun: 08.00 - 12 noon

Last Post Guaranteed Collection Times: 16.45pm weekdays and 10.20am Saturday post taken in after that time will not be despatched until the following day.

Stamps will go up by 1p on Tuesday 29th March for first and second class normal and large letter stamps.

The shop and Post Office Easter holiday hours.

Good Friday 25th March - Closed

Saturday 26th March - open 8 am till 12 noon

Easter Sunday 27th March - Closed

Easter Monday 28th March - Closed

Tuesday 29th March back to normal opening hours

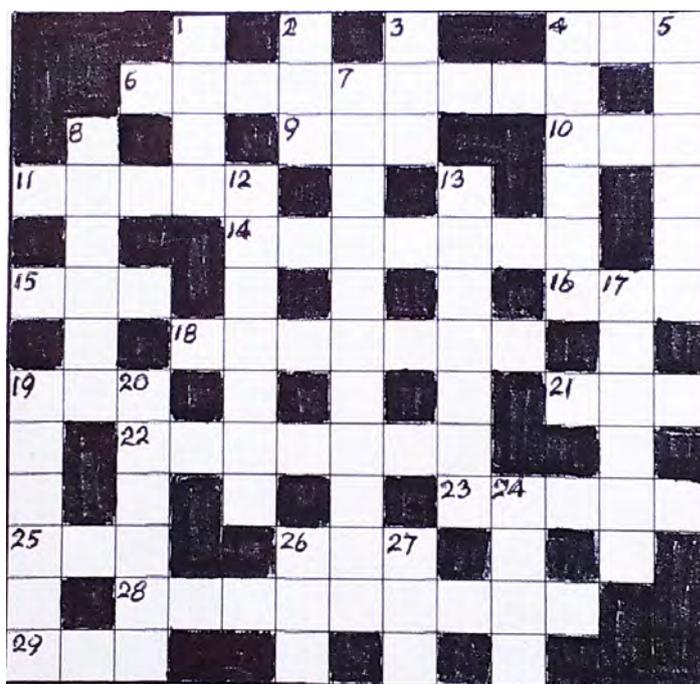
Visit us on Facebook:

facebook.com/marchamvillageshop

Come in and see what we have for your Easter celebrations

Chocolate and real eggs, lamb from Manor Farm and of course you can surprise your beloved with a bag of sherbert lemons - only 50p a quarter!

CROSSWORD BY ALISA



Across

- 4. Noise (3)
- 6. County for Frozen foods (9)
- 9. Mimic animal (3)
- 10. Breed of dog (3)
- 11. Big cat (5)
- 14. Theatre in Abingdon (7)
- 15. Liquid for writing (3)
- 16. Part of morse code (3)
- 18. It is good for you (7)
- 19. Owns (3)
- 21. Lyric poem (3)
- 22. What bridge over the Ock will suffer for a time (7)
- 23. Little bird (5)
- 25. Big bird (3)
- 26. British Broadcasting Corporation (3)
- 28. High ground en route to Oxford (5.6)
- 29. That's right (3)

Down

- 1. Yearn for tree (4)
- 2. Parent-Teacher Association (3)
- 3. Article (3)
- 4. Rely (6)
- 5. Lump of gold (6)
- 7. Providers of churchyard colour (6.5)
- 8. Garden flower (6)
- 12. River of no return (7)
- 13. Breed of dog (7)
- 17. Confer holy orders on (6)
- 19. Very much (6)
- 20. Cancels (6)
- 24. Merely (4)
- 26. Support (3)
- 27. Greek letter X (3)

Abingdon & District Model Railway Club Ltd.
presents

ABRAIL 2016
Model Railway Show
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10.00am – 5.00pm Saturday 19th March 2016

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MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

The children have recently enjoyed making their own pancakes and having a go at tossing them (and only a few landed on the floor!). We have had lots of fun in the kitchen this term, with Chinese New Year celebrations, birthday cakes, fruit smoothies, and making play doh! The group have been exploring babies and growth which will continue into next term, with a visit from Zoolab, so watch out for next month's news.

If you would interested in joining preschool, please get in touch as soon as possible to discuss your requirements. We can be contacted on 01865 382101 or via email at marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk

www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com

**NEWS FROM MARCHAM SCHOOL**

On Monday 8th February the House captains and the Chair and Vice Chair of the School Council went to Larkmead School to participate in a Dr Debra Kidd's training session. Dr Debra Kidd has done research into making lessons more creative. We worked with children from different schools and discussed the issues of global warming, deforestation and what our future could be if we did not change.

We all enjoyed ourselves, but Meg said "We could have been introduced to the other schools more."

Oliver said "It was enjoyable" and Bo said "It was a great experience." Amelie thought it was good, and Luke enjoyed the scientific aspect of it, Samuel liked Debra's way of teaching. We all had great fun and hope the school uses her way of teaching.

Amelie Marah – Chair of School Council

Luke Brown – Vice Chair of School Council

Bo Sanders – Captain of Morland House

Meg Pooley – Captain of Denman House

Oliver Armstrong – Captain of Duffield House

Samuel Wood – Captain of Anson House

**The Maya come to Marcham!**

The Key Stage 2 children have been learning about the Maya in history. This week we were lucky enough to have a visit from Bignose who told us lots about the Maya: their way of life, their customs and their gods, by looking at artefacts and taking part in drama. Some children were even able to dress up in Maya clothes. We particularly enjoyed finding out about ritual sacrifice and the different ways they did it that included ripping out your heart and chopping off your head. We discovered that rich people put jade in their teeth and they used cocoa beans as money. Some children played Pok a Tok, a Maya ball game where you cannot touch the ball with your hands or feet. Sometimes the winning team had the honour of being sacrificed at the end of the game.

I liked the drama because some of the groups were very funny. At the end of the day when Mrs Capel and Mr Codd did drama it helped me understand the Maya civilisation. It was very interesting and I want to learn more. **Rosie Y3**

I love the drama where people got sacrificed and when Alistair pretended to be a turkey that we bought with cocoa beans. I liked it when Mrs Capel and Mr Codd were Maya gods and lots of the children were animals. **Rory Y3**

I loved the Maya workshops. I learnt how to count from 1-10 in Mayan. When we did a Maya fashion parade, I felt like I was wearing a weird old fashioned top and headdress. I learnt a lot about the Maya and I really enjoyed it. **Ellie Y3**

Well February seems to have flown by and here at Little Angels we have been busy ...



BABY ROOM The babies have been following the topic of shapes and have created a wonderful display in the baby room of circles, squares and triangles using finger paints, lots and lots of glue sticking and for Valentine's Day each child made a heart shape card with their very own tiny little footprints, really sweet idea. They have also started to get back outside with walks around the village and have been spending time in the garden using the baby garden equipment, Some of the babies tasted pancakes for the first time on pancake day and it was interesting to see their faces and expressions with the pancake texture.

PRE-SCHOOL ROOM The preschool room has also been exploring and investigating shapes, with treasure hunts for anything square, Kim's game, collaging, looking at shapes in the environment e.g. road signs, plates, wheels etc. The children have used a variety of materials to create circles, using cars to roll in the paint, triangle road signs and printing with triangles, square cut and stick potato printing etc. The children have not only learnt shapes but also colour recognition along with counting and sizes of shapes 'big' and 'little'. The garden has been popular this month and the children have been creative with pirate boats and buried treasure, even drawing their own treasure map and exploring the the seas of the grass area. It is amazing to see the children so absorbed in their own magical world.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB great to have the lighter nights now and the chance to open up the after school club onto the field, The Big Angels have been busy inside making Chinese new year displays (you may have seen it in the hall) of Chinese writing, dragons, fans etc. We of course did not miss pancake day and the Big Angels had pancakes with lemon for tea, and yes they did have lots of pancakes.

HOLIDAY CLUB This was a nice week, we made chocolate, create our own chocolate bars, designed our wrappers, golden tickets and colourings and word searches in our Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory activities, finishing with a popcorn session and watching the film at the end of the week.

If you would like any further information about Abingdon Little Angels Nursery, Afterschool Club or Holiday Club please feel free to pop in or call us on 07516 474287.

Marcham Guides had fun at Wittenham Clumps and building bird boxes at the Earth Trust... www.earthtrust.org.uk

We had so much fun making a bird box & I loved the hot chocolate **Keira Smith**

It was really fun up Wittenham Clumps. We went for a walk round then stopped on top of a hill to fly kites. Some of us managed to get them flying really high, but others barely left the ground. After that we drank hot chocolate and ate flapjacks and cheese scones. Then we went on to make bird boxes at The Earths Trust where we experienced a series of different skills, such as sawing and drilling. Our results were very good and we can't wait to tell those who couldn't go how to make bird boxes. Overall we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and hope to go back to Wittenham Clumps again. **Amelie Marah**

It was good fun we had a great time trying to get the kites to fly. We all enjoyed making bird boxes and most of us tried something new as we would not usually use a saw, a hammer, or a drill every day!!! I especially liked the big race down the hill at the end. **Danielle Perris**

I really enjoyed going on the trip to Wittenham Clumps and doing something fun with my Guide friends. We did some fun things including going on a walk, kite flying and making a bird box. I hope that we will do it again soon. **Lauren Gaisford**



Dear Friends,

March is full of special events and services in your Parish Church, including:

Mothering Sunday: Sunday 6th March, and the special services and events leading to the beautiful celebration of life and hope that is Easter! *[please see panel below]*

During Holy Week – the week leading up to Easter – we shall have special prayer points in All Saints, to help us focus on some of the moments in the last days of Jesus' life. I invite you to find some quiet space, and to meditate, to pray, at those points, and enter into the events that changed the world.

It can appear to be paradoxical that at the centre of the Christian faith – that celebrates life in all its fullness – is the remembering of a cruel and unjust death – namely that of the Lord, Jesus himself, on a Roman cross. Yet his death is the source of life for you and me – life with God - unclouded, unbroken, healing, restoring, loving, constant and beautiful. Puzzled? Would you like to know more? Why not come and discover for yourself!

After Easter we are planning to hold another **Alpha course** – the opportunity to explore and unpack what the whole Christian thing is all about – without pressure, no strings, simply the opportunity to discover with friends. If you would like to be part of this exploration, please contact Tamsin or myself in the parish office (details below).

May I take this opportunity to wish you and those you love a truly wonderful Easter, and as we see the spring flowers bursting out all around us, may you enjoy the wonder and beauty of new life in the cycles of nature – a powerful reminder that Jesus wants to give each of us the joy of new life with God – for always!

With my warmest Easter greetings,

Canon Richard Zair
Vicar

Regular church services

Sundays: 10am & 6pm at All Saints'
Wednesdays: 10.30am at Duffield Place

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday HC, 7.30pm

Good Friday 2-3pm an hour at the cross at St. Mary's, Shippon

Easter Day HC, 10am at All Saints'
10.30am at St. Luke's

Look out for more information nearer the time

Contacts:

Canon Richard Zair 391319 (r_zair@yahoo.co.uk)
Jill Rowe Youth and Children's Minister 390885
Tim Jack Churchwarden 01865 864900
Tamsin Gilbert Parish Administrator 391319
Parish Office: parish_office41@yahoo.co.uk
www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

Men's Breakfast March 4th, 8.30am, at the Baptist Hall

Chris Nutman:

*Reflections on a pilgrimage
to the 'Cradle of Christianity'*



**Changing Room
(Women's Breakfast)**
March 19th, 8.30am
at the Baptist Hall
Noelle Gillies:
Who is my neighbour?

Women's World Day of Prayer
10.30am All Saints Church
Friday 4th March
Followed by lunch
Contact 01865 391319



Parish people: Our prayers are with the families of Betty Reed and Dorothy Bunce who passed away last month.