

Marcham & District News

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MARCH 2017 VOL: 39 NO: 3

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ MCG's Burn's Night Supper page 19



▲ ZooLab comes to PreSchool page 13



Jill Rowe – Superstar! ▶
pages 5 & 13



◀ Have you seen our cyclists in training?
page 5



▲ Marcham Guides Inside and Out page 13 ▶



▲ Pete the Postie page 5

Diary for March

4 Sat	Wantage and Grove Lions Bingo and Raffle, Grove Village Hall, 18.45	17	16 Thu	Mid-Week Walk, The Victoria Inn, Eastleach Turville 12.30 lunch / 13.30 walk	7
4 Sat	St David's Gala Charity Concert, Oxford Town Hall, 19.00	15	16 Thu	Music at the Unicorn: Said The Maiden, Abingdon, 19.00	17
4 Sat	Music in the Vale: Early Spring Sonatas, St Denys' Church, Stanford i t Vale, 19.30	17	16 Thu	Marcham WI: AGM, Games & Pudding, Denman College, 19.15	7
8 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3	17 Fri	Marcham Players AGM and Play Reading, Manor Farm, 19.30	17
9 Thur	Sunningwell Gardening Club, Sunningwell Village Hall, 19.30	15	18 Sat	ABRAIL Model Railway Show, Abingdon Leisure Centre, 10.00 – 17.00	15
11 Sat	Litter Blitz, Anson Field Car Park, 09.30 – 12.00	5	18 Sat	Six Nations: England v Ireland, MSSSC, 17.00	7
11 Sat	Wantage and Grove Lions Jumble Sale, Hanney BL Hall, 13.30	17	20 Mon	Deadline for April MADNews, 17.00: editor@madnews.co.uk	
11 Sat	Six Nations: England v Scotland, MSSSC, 16.00	7	21 Tue	Marcham Motor Club: Challenger Tank, All Saints' Church, 19.30	17
14 Tue	Activity Taster for over 60s, MSSSC, 10.00	11	22-26	ATOM Festival, Abingdon	17
14 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00 - 15.30	5	25 Sat	Jumble Sale, Southmoor Village Hall, 14.30	5
14 Tue	Marcham Society: History of Garford, Mike Grieg, All Saints' Church, 19.45	9	28 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00 - 15.30	5
			31 Fri	MSSSC Quiz Night 20.15	7

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

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Dear Readers

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Until next time!



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

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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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DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Marcham and Shippon
Catherine Webber, Orchard Barn, Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ
Tel: 01235 534001
Webbercatherine1@gmail.com

For other councillors go to

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Marcham Garden Competition 2017

The Council will again be running the Best Kept Garden Competition in 2017. No entry forms will be required and judges will assess gardens from the roadside without the need for entering properties. This year changes are having to be made to the zones in view of the new properties which have been built in the village. So please bear the competition in mind when planning your gardens and planting your seeds.

Annual Meeting of Electors

The Annual Meeting of Electors will take place on Wednesday 24th May at 7.30p.m. 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 in the meantime, please put a note of the date in your diaries.

Vale Local Plan Part Two Preferred Options Consultation

The Local Plan Part Two Consultation on part two of the Local Plan will go live on Thursday 9 March and will run until 5pm on Thursday 4 May 2017. The District Council is keen to ensure that members of the public have a range of opportunities to become aware of the Local Plan and they understand the importance of giving us their feedback on the plan. A series of public events is being organised to enable members of the public to meet with Planning Officers to discuss the Vale of White Horse District Council Local Plan and to share their views on the proposed changes. Please check the District Council's website for the dates and venues.

There is a range of ways you can become involved in the consultation from Thursday 9 March to Thursday 4 May.

- Providing feedback at the events
- Participating in the online survey,
- Completing a paper based survey, available at local libraries and council offices
- Submitting your comments by post or email using the comments form.

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building

Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council has been considering whether to set up a working party to begin to look at the merits of undertaking a neighbourhood plan. A "plan" is a document that sets out planning policies for the area, written by the local community, and approved by them in a referendum. The "plan", however needs to be approved by the District Council too and would sit within the framework of the District Council's Local Plan. Such a document would need a tremendous amount of effort and a large number of volunteers to see the whole project through. In view of all the activity on other projects at the current time, the Council has agreed to postpone consideration of setting up a neighbourhood plan working party to later in the year.

Dog Fouling

Complaints are being received regarding dog fouling again. Would dog owners please note that there is a legal duty to clean up after your dog, and you can face fines and prosecutions if you do not. So please carry a poop scoop and bag with you when out walking. It is very unpleasant to tread in it, push a pushchair or bicycle through it or even drive your mobility scooter through it. In addition there are health hazards associated with dog faeces, particularly toxocariasis which is a serious illness caused by a parasite that lives in dogs' digestive systems. If faeces is not cleared up, any parasite can stay in the ground for a very long time, and young children can become unknowingly infected.

A34 nighttime closures

The A34 southbound will be closed from 27th Feb for 8 nights, and northbound from 7th March for 8 nights between the Marcham and Milton interchanges. This is to allow resurfacing works. If you usually travel this road, then please look out for the advance information signs displayed on the A34 itself.

Unitary Authority

The Vale of White Horse District Council is joining Oxfordshire County Council and South Oxfordshire District Council to submit a joint bid to the government for a single unitary council. The aims and objectives are set out on the District Council's website

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/news/2017/2017-02/council-leaders%E2%80%99-statement-single-unitary-council-oxfordshire>.

A formal proposal will be put to the government in the spring. Over the coming weeks and months the District Council will be working with the parish and town councils to discuss the proposals in more detail.

Planning applications

The Council has considered the following planning applications:

P16/V2692/FUL amended plans for variation of condition 7: Roads to remain private; and condition 13: no requirement to provide electric charging points. Charging points would now be installed at the market sale properties. The Council accepted this compromise but still required any roads constructed to be built to County Council standards.

R3.0008/17 Alterations to the hard play area at the Primary School. The Council supported the application.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday 8th March 2017 at 7.30p.m. in the residents' lounge, at Duffield Place.

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

"I am overwhelmed!!

Over the last 3 months I have been awarded not one but two awards for my services to the young people in our community.

In November I was shocked to be nominated for the Vale Community Service Award, and then this week, at guides, I was totally surprised at our Thinking Day celebration to be presented with Guidings "Good Service Brooch".

All in all I think this means I am getting older and have been involved for a very long time!

I am extremely grateful and would like to thank EVERYONE who helps and supports me in any way - I know I couldn't do any of it without you all.

Finally I am hugely grateful to all the children and young people of Marcham and surrounding area for putting up with me for so long!

This community is blessed with so many amazing young people, many of whom I've had the privilege to watch grow and develop into wonderful adults, some of whom are now themselves contributing towards this community.

Lets continue to work together to help and support the young people in our community

Thank you, all of you

JILL ROWE

Postie Pete's Special Collection

Dozens of villagers along the postal route through Appleton, Tubney, Fyfield and Netherton showed their appreciation for their favourite postman as 'Postie Pete' retired from Royal Mail at Christmas after 35 years. As well as gifts and messages given directly, many people along Pete's route joined a collection which raised £1,300 for him to spend at his leisure. Trish Wagstaff, Penny Budgen, Felicity Dick and Stuart Oldham presented Pete and his wife Jane with the collection over tea and cakes in Tubney a few weeks into his retirement.

'Everyone wanted to contribute to mark their affection and thanks for Pete's cheerful service and friendship' said Trish.

JUMBLE SALE
2.30pm Sat 25 March
Southmoor Village Hall
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It's not just for children or retired people, if you're in the village on a Wednesday midday, come over and have lunch

We don't make a charge for the meal but rely on contributions.

TRAINING CYCLISTS FOR SAFER ROADS

You may have seen some of the pupils from Marcham School being given cycle training around the village – usually Fridays 1:30-3pm around Howard Cornish Road and the school. This training helps the children to develop the skills needed to cope with moving traffic and be aware of other road users and so is a vital part of learning to be independent while also increasing safety on our roads. The children are taught about road safety, the Highway Code and the correct way to conduct yourself on the road with consideration of the traffic conditions and other road users. The teaching is given by trained volunteer tutors and the final test is administered by an external examiner.

All the participants wear hi-vis jackets (see the cover) and the route has been advised by Oxfordshire Council as it is a typical example of a UK road system. If you see groups from Marcham School – or any school – on your travels, please be tolerant and act sensibly around them. If your child would like to take part in the training, contact the school for more details.

If you have a view on a local issue, want to thank people, congratulate success or publicise an event within or near the MADNews area, contact the editor 01865 391725 editor@madnews.co.uk or pop a note in the PO envelope
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PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

Marcham Parish Council currently has a vacancy for a member of the public to become a Parish Councillor. The meetings are held monthly on the second Wednesday in the month except August. If you feel you would like to get involved in making decisions about your local community, and make a significant contribution to the area in which you live or work, then please contact the Clerk for further information:

Mrs. L. Martin
 Clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk
 01865 391833

Litter Blitz

March 11th at 9:30 am - 12 noon
Meet by the Sports and Social Club on Anson Field.

Everyone is welcome to come and tidy up the village and get it ready for spring!
 Children welcome but must be accompanied by an adult.
 Picker-uppers and bags will be provided and each volunteer will be given an area to clear.
 For more details please contact **Malcolm Denton 01865 391497**

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Marcham WI

Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, 16th March

Time: 7.15pm

Venue: Denman College

AGM, Games and Puddings



Our AGM is on 16th March, so come along and choose your President and Committee for the next year. Following the AGM, we will all be enjoying a games night and pudding tasting.

Please note the slightly earlier start time of 7.15pm.

For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com

MARCHAM SOCIETY MID-WEEK WALK: THURSDAY, MARCH 16TH.

This month's walk is in the lovely valley of the river Leach in the Cotswolds. We will eat at The Victoria Inn, Eastleach Turville (Map Ref: SP 198053) at 12.30pm, starting our walk of just under 4 miles at 1.30pm. We shall be walking down the river to Southrop, returning via the twin churches at Eastleach, which should be surrounded by daffodils!



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

MARCHAM SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

Our January meeting, on Thursday 26th, was our annual late Christmas Tea Party. Members were served with a variety of sandwiches, savories, salads, cakes, trifle and jelly prepared by our committee members. Plenty of leftovers which some members were able to take home for later.

Before tea we had a Christmas related quiz which members found fairly hard but enjoyed the challenge. Our usual raffle provided many prizes donated by members with everyone winning at least one prize. On February 16th we went to the Crown for lunch which was enjoyed by all. Thanks to Sue for such a lovely meal. We look forward to holding another lunch later in the year when the new kitchen is a full swing at the Crown.

Our March meeting will be a collection of video funnies followed by our usual raffle and, of course tea and biscuits..

NEW MEMBERS VERY WELCOME

For more information contact
John Woods (Secretary) 391705

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

Quiz Night 31 March 8.15pm

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!

Quiz nights usually take place on the last Friday of each month. Everyone welcome, members and non members. Just turn up on the night for a friendly evening of fun and banter. Questions are on a range of subjects and aimed at everyone's ability!

SIX NATIONS

The following 'six nations' rugby matches will be televised live in the club during March.

Others may be shown, by request.

SATURDAY 11 MARCH@16.00 ENGLAND v SCOTLAND

SATURDAY 18 MARCH@17.00 ENGLAND v IRELAND

In addition the club bar will also be open on all Fridays during the month. The bar opening times will be 8pm till 11.30pm.

Further details from Trevor Hill – 01865 391321

Everyone welcome - members AND non-members

We look forward to seeing you at the club

Community Facilities Steering Group Plans moving forward...

Good progress has been made with legal agreements between key parties (The Anson Trust, The Vale of White Horse District Council, Marcham Parish Council and Thomas Homes) which are close to being finalised. The Parish Council, at its February meeting, agreed arrangements for providing necessary funding for the project, subject to contract terms. The working group of CFSG has been finalising design specifications and operating budgets for the community facilities, which, once agreed by the parties involved, will be used to provide a brief for the architect to develop a full scheme and drawings for the hall. It is important to get these details right so that the new community facilities are fit for the future.

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).

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MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

The Club held it's AGM in February; many matters received attention during a very useful meeting.

The OCA 2017 Season opens for the Club with a 1st XI match at Marcham on April 29th.

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

And finally.....an immaculately dressed batsman strode to the crease to open the batting for a visiting side. His superior attitude suggested that he knew what he was doing as he tapped down imaginary high spots and studied the fielding positions before indicating that he was ready. The first delivery whistled straight through narrowly missing the stumps. The second ball also had him comprehensively beaten, although he somehow managed to avoid being out. The next ball came through marginally more slowly, but still powerfully enough to dislodge the middle stump convincingly as he mistimed his shot. "What a pity" said the Wicket Keeper "just when you had settled in so well!"



CSB

MARCHAM SOCIETY

On 14 February Tony Gillman gave a talk to the Marcham Society entitled Catapults to Colliders: the History of Harwell Science and Innovation Centre.

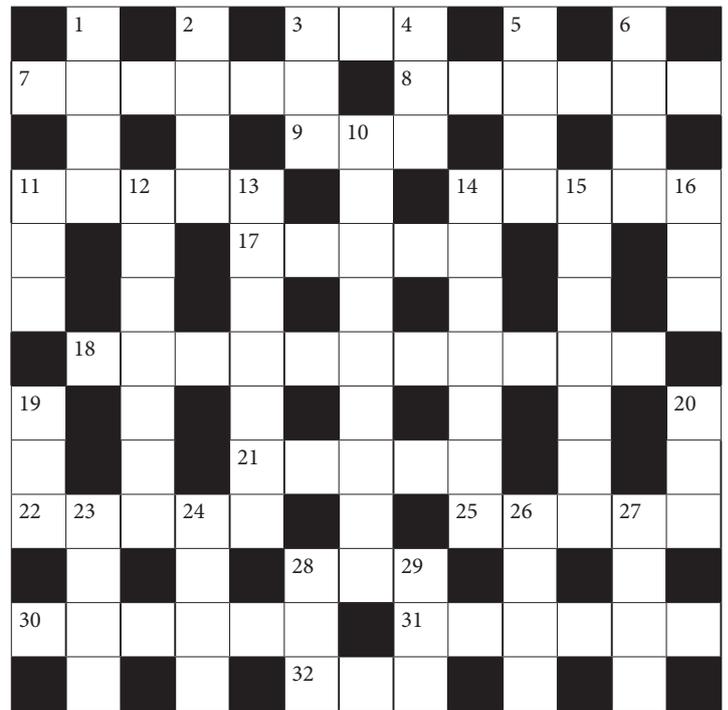
The Harwell site began as a wartime airfield and the "catapults" referred to an idea for launching 30-ton bombers. A huge, circular pit was dug, with two long trenches from which a pneumatic system would "catapult" the plane into the air. In fact, it was never used, but one unfortunate man spent the war years maintaining the underground system.

After the war, the British government decided to establish its own nuclear research centre at Harwell, under the directorship of John Cockcroft. By 1949 the site had two research reactors – GLEEP and BEPO. These were followed by materials testing reactors DIDO and PLUTO, which ran from 1956 until they were shut down in 1990. In 1950, Klaus Fuchs, a German theoretical physicist, was arrested and found guilty of passing secret information to Russia. By the late 1960s, Harwell was diversifying into commercial work, such as carbon-14 dating. This process dated both the Round Table at Winchester and the Turin shroud to the 13th century.

By 1960, fusion research had moved to Culham Laboratory and a new centre had been established at Rutherford Laboratory (south of the Harwell site) to concentrate on particle physics research. This became the Rutherford-Appleton Laboratory in 1980, with the transfer of astrophysicists from the Appleton Laboratory near Slough. The work of the laboratory has gone from strength to strength, culminating in the recent building of the Diamond light source - the large doughnut-shaped building visible from the A34. This produces intense infra-red light beams which are used to study a wide range of materials.

JP

CROSSWORD BY ALISA



Across

- 3. Flier by night (3)
- 7. Vegetable (6)
- 8. American fridge (6)
- 9. Perform (3)
- 11. Male birds (5)
- 14. Corner (5)
- 17. Big swimmer (5)
- 18. Earth Trust Event (11)
- 21. American president (5)
- 22. Material (5)
- 25. Not clean (5)
- 28. Chimney sweep (3)
- 30. Moving (5)
- 31. Kingdom (6)
- 32. Toy (3)

Down

- 1. Outdoor game (4)
- 2. Job (4)

3. Snake (3)

- 4. Bird (3)
- 5. House (4)
- 6. Each of two (4)
- 10. Denman (5.4)
- 11. Fish (3)
- 12. Musician (7)
- 13. Town beyond Faringdon (7)
- 14. Road in Marcham (3.4)
- 15. Pillars (7)
- 16. Finish (3)
- 19. Light before electricity (3)
- 20. Beam (3)
- 23. Curve (4)
- 24. Thames (4)
- 26. One (4)
- 27. Side (4)
- 28. Stream (3)
- 29. Plan (3)

DUFFIELD SUNSHINE CLUB

We meet on Mondays at 2 o'clock in The Residents' Lounge, Duffield Place. Any new members will be very welcome. We play some games of Bingo, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with biscuits and finish off with a raffle about 3.30pm.

Any further information, please contact me on 391384 or just come and join us on a Monday afternoon at 2pm for a social afternoon.

ALL WELCOME

JEAN DIX

 <p><i>The Marcham Society</i></p> <p><i>All Saints' Church, Marcham 7.45pm Tuesday 14th March</i></p>	<h1 style="margin: 0;">The History of Garford</h1> <h2 style="margin: 0;">Mike Greig</h2>
<p>Non-members always welcome £2</p>	<p>www.marchamsociety.org.uk</p> <p>Further details: Sheila Dunford (391439) or Judith Fontaine (391275)</p>

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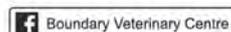
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ED VAIZEY WRITES...

Over the last few weeks I held two public meetings to discuss Brexit, the first in Wantage, the second in Didcot, attended by about 250 people in total. Both meetings produced a lively discussion, with representatives on both sides of the debate airing their opinions. The feedback I had helped me consider my position in the run up to Article 50 being triggered, and will continue to inform my views as the Government begins its negotiations on leaving the European Union.



Last month I also hosted a cross-party debate in Parliament on funding for NHS fertility services, which are woefully underfunded in Oxfordshire. Following the debate, the Minister, Nicola Blackwood, said she would tell NHS England that the Government expects all clinical commissioning groups to provide the recommended three cycles of treatment.

While we are on the subject of the NHS, I met with the CEO of Oxfordshire CCG, David Smith, to seek clarity on the priorities of the Oxfordshire Healthcare Transformation Consultation and its implications for residents across my constituency. The first phase of the consultation opened this month, and is due to conclude in April, you can take part here: <https://consult.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/consult.ti/BigconsultationPhase1/consultationHome>

I also raised the issue of capital funding for the expansion of GP's surgeries in both Wantage and Faringdon, and will lobby the Department of Health and the NHS during the next round of bidding. There is good progress being made on improving rail services through the constituency. I organised a meeting for a group of MPs, council officers and Local Enterprise Partnerships from Oxfordshire, Wiltshire and Swindon, to discuss the opening of a new rail link from Swindon to Oxford, which would help the case to re-open Grove station. It is still early days, but there is desire from all parties involved to make progress.

ED VAIZEY, MP Wantage and Didcot (Conservative)

Contact Ed Vaizey MP by	
Post	The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
E-mail	dicksonce@parliament.uk
Web	www.vaizey.com
News	http://bit.ly/EdVaizeyMP
Tel	0207 219 6350

COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Unitary Government – time for Oxfordshire residents to decide. OCC Budget

It is a sad fact that the voices that speak up to defend Adult Social Care (ASC) are fewer and quieter than those speaking up in defence of Children's Services. Compared to the army of protestors lined up outside the OCC offices on budget day 2016, this year was peace and quiet.

Yet, as so many of us are living to extreme old age, the pressure on the ASC budget is increasing fast. As a proportion of the overall budget ASC is already much the largest component. This is why Government decided to allow Councils to raise an additional 3% on Council Tax per year for two years. OCC, in their wisdom, have used some of that money to support the general budget – an opportunity missed - in my view. A suggestion that by borrowing £10m while interest rates are low, such that many of the potholes in our roads could be fixed quickly was defeated as "too risky". The administration's budget proposals were passed – albeit narrowly (31/29) and with the support of 2 of the independents.

In an otherwise calm and uneventful budget day, one piece of potentially exciting news is the likelihood that a major review of the County's property portfolio will yield many millions – something many of us have been asking for for a long time.

Unitary

It seems that Government have effectively ruled out a Combined Authority (with Mayor), are no longer interested in a 3 Unitary solution for Oxfordshire, and that Devolution deals are not likely

to be on offer. This is behind the apparent U turn by the Leaders of VWHDC and SODC who are now in full support of the single Oxfordshire Unitary solution. The pressure is building on those still resisting to join the table for fear of missing out on the benefits. As you may imagine, I am delighted.

RICHARD WEBBER CLLR OCC SC & Marcham Division.
Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or 01235 534001

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Air Pollution Survey

Thank you so much to all of you who have responded to our request in last month's MADNews for volunteers to carry out a survey of HGVs travelling through Packhorse Lane. The good news is that we now have 28 volunteers (Hooray!), so we have arranged a planning meeting in The Crown on Sunday, 5th March at 4.00 pm, when we can set a date for the survey as well as discuss how the survey will be done under the guidance of OCC. If there are any others who would like to join us we will be delighted to see you too.

The Vale council changes its mind

On Wednesday, 19th February the Vale of the White Horse held their full Council meeting at the Beacon in Wantage where we discovered that there has been a radical change of mind in the Conservative led council. Now they are supporting a single Unitary council, which you will have read a lot about in your County Councillor's recent articles, instead of a three Unitary council or a combined mayoral council, largely because the government's support of the latter types of councils has vanished. Personally, I think this is the right decision, especially as it will save very large sums of money (twenty million a year) which can be put towards saving essential services such as Children's centres and Adult Social Care.

CATHERINE WEBBER CLlr VWHDC
 01235 534001 or Webbercatherine1@gmail.com

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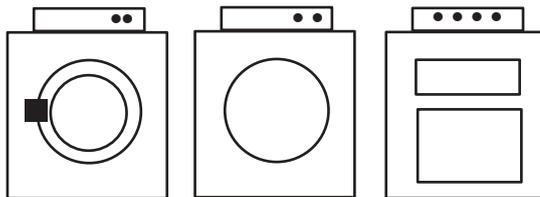
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MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

At the end of January, we welcomed Zoolab UK to pre-school for their annual animal workshop! Exploring the story behind the Chinese Calendar we heard about the 12 animals who raced to receive a year in their name - and met some that didn't make it.... The children were extremely brave as we got to meet and hold a rat, a cockroach, tarantula, giant African snail, and a snake... but the star of the day had to be "a baby dinosaur" - it was actually a bearded DRAGON! but close enough....

The children and staff enjoyed the experience and learnt lots about the animals inspiring paintings, construction and story telling.

If you are interested in joining Marcham Pre-school please get in touch to arrange a visit. It's never too early to register your interest - there's no obligation and no registration fees to pay - we only have a few spaces left for September 2017 and a waiting list for 2018 and 2019! Please email marcham-pre-school@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 01865 392101 for more information.

**Chedworth Roman Villa**

On Monday 20th February Year 3,4,5 and 6 went to the Chedworth Roman Villa.

We found out how archaeologists knew the artefacts were Roman and we had a go at putting them into categories. *Aoife and Charlotte*

We were very lucky because we got to make our own Roman medicine. The ingredients were herbs such as lavender and spices such as cumin and mustard seeds. This was very good for blocked noses because it had a strong smell. *Lara* We used a pestle and mortar to grind the herbs and spices. *Ava* A mosaic is a pattern printed into the ground by putting multi-coloured tesserae (small stone cubes) into a mud-based glue to make a pattern. *Ellie*

PTA Round-up

I am very pleased to be able to announce that we have received some significant support in our fundraising drive to furnish the new classrooms for the school. We have received considerable donations including contributions from S and R Childs Funeral Services, Marcham Village Shop, Taylor Wimpey plc and Matthew Homes Limited totalling more than £2,500, a fantastic start to our appeal. If you work for a community-spirited company looking to contribute to a local project that will have a real and positive impact on the upcoming generations, then please let me know and I will make the appropriate approaches.

The next PTA events will be a film night for the school pupils on Saturday 11 March and a Family Quiz Night on Friday 28 April. Further details will be publicised nearer the dates.

If you would like to learn more in how you can help with our school fundraising, either drop me an email at [peter.kidd61@btinternet.com](mailto:kidd61@btinternet.com), or call me on 07708 251312. Every bit of extra help is very welcome

See you on the school run

Peter Kidd, PTA Chair



Parent Teacher Association

**Marcham Pre-school
Family Fun Day
Saturday 29th April 2017**

**Hold the date
more details in the next MADNEWS!!!!**

www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com

MUSIC AT MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

At Marcham Primary School we are very lucky to have Mrs Rosie Bruce from the County Music Service visit us every week. Mrs Bruce enables every Year 3 child to have the opportunity to play a stringed instrument – either violin, cello or double bass. She also teaches children in Years 4, 5 and 6 who, after that initial year, have decided to continue with their lessons.

It was fantastic to hear all our string players play at the Christmas Carol service including 6 double basses which must be a County record! There are also lots of other musical activities going on in school alongside weekly class music lessons. These include Marcham Singers (led by Jill Rowe), recorder playing and the wonderful Early Years and KS1 Nativity just before Christmas.

This year is the 75th Anniversary of the Oxfordshire County Music service. We are delighted that 12 of our singers have the once in a life time opportunity to sing in Birmingham Symphony Hall to celebrate this landmark. The children are currently rehearsing an especially composed piece, called "Apollo's Lyre", that they will perform with other singers and instrumentalists from all over the county on March 25th.

Apollo's Lyre

On Tuesday Feb 21st we went for our first massed rehearsal for Apollo's Lyre. Here are some of the thoughts of the children:

I really enjoyed all of the songs but my favourite was 'Birth of the Lyre'. *Bethan*

We felt really excited and nervous when we started to sing but we sang to our heart's content. *Hollie and Milly*

Throughout the songs we were very enthusiastic and we were determined to get it right. The body percussion was tricky but it got us going. *Ollie, Laura, Isla*

**MARCHAM GUIDES**

This term Guides have been very busy. Lesley Cope came to teach us "arm knitting" which was a new skill for all of us and very much enjoyed! The Guides made "snoods" which they are proudly wearing. Zoe Pooley, Matron at Oxford Children's Hospital, visited to talk about the role of a nurse. We also learnt how to sew knitted squares into blankets which we are going to give to the baby unit at the JR and some girls have also started to learn to knit their own squares.

During half term a few of us went to visit Charlie and Polly Dipper in Hertfordshire. It was a great day out, we built a hide in the woods, had a lovely cooked lunch provided by Emma and a camp fire with marshmallows in the afternoon. Charlie was presented with her Baden Powell award that she had managed to complete on her own after leaving us last summer. We are all very proud of her perseverance to get it finished.

To celebrate **Thinking Day** we had an activities meeting with other Guides, Brownies and Rainbows from our District. It was attended by the District and County Commissioner as our very own **Jill Rowe** had a surprise presentation. She was awarded the "**Good Service Award**" in recognition for all the extra work she gives to Guiding, in particular her work over recent years at the International camp, Quest, where she cheerfully leads the catering team for our District, feeding over 100 girls and leaders 3 meals a day! It is very much deserved as we all know how much time and effort she puts into Guiding, within the Unit and further afield. Thank you Jill!



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Support Birds and Change the Course of Evolution ?

Each year the RSPB launches its Big Garden Birdwatch encouraging us to record what is in our gardens as well as to put out food for birds. Five years back, my tiny Marcham garden with simple lawn only attracted Blackbirds to feed. Subsequent wildlife gardening has changed that and on a typical winter day the list now includes: Wood Pigeon, Collared Dove, Great-spotted Woodpecker, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Starling, Greenfinch, Chaffinch, Goldfinch, House Sparrow, Robin, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Coal Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Dunnock, Wren and Goldcrest*.

As ever, bird variety is strongly linked to: -

- Types of added trees, shrubs, climbers and perennials.
- 3D structure with perches, dense cover/safe refuges and similar links to connecting gardens.
- Providing food like: Fat balls, Peanuts, Sunflower Seed, Mixed fine seed and Nyger seed.

Feeding also regularly brings the House-Sparrow-sized Blackcap to feed in my garden. Boringly dull grey or greyish brown atop and paler beneath, its 'notable' feature is the cap of either black or chestnut brown feathering above the eye.

Their first arrival is so regular that, for some 25 years, I can almost predict the arrival date each November. I find the disappearance in Feb or early March far less predictable and easily missed.

In Britain, Blackcaps are typically described as a breeding summer visitor to woods, copses and scrubland. Migrating back south to winter around the idyllic holiday regions of the western Mediterranean and North West Africa. So what are Blackcaps doing, feeding on fat balls and peanuts, during winter in my small Marcham garden ?

In past centuries, a handful of Blackcaps might be recorded in winter and many field guides still repeat that rare winter status. But these days, enormous numbers are wintering in UK urban/fringe gardens; but not the wider countryside. Interestingly, research, including coded marking of individuals, shows overwhelmingly that these wintering birds have BRED in Central Europe. Whilst similar research confirms UK breeding birds still winter far to the South. The overall reasoning is complicated but this change in migration strategy for Central European Blackcaps can now be identified in the genetic makeup of those same birds.

Temperature with recent climate warming and waste heat warming of cities is thought to have some positive bearing but the growth in feeding of garden birds most closely matches this observed growth in the wintering Blackcap population. We in the UK, started bird feeding early and now are particularly good at providing high calorific value food, like fat and peanuts, in a predictable, reliable way across the highly urbanised, but garden rich swathes of lowland Britain.

As this MADNews arrives in letterboxes, Continental Blackcaps will be moving back East. From early April British male Blackcaps will arrive in force; announcing their return with loud warbling song in areas of broadleaf trees. For Marcham residents that includes the largest gardens, Hyde Copse, Kiln Copse, along Cow Lane / Moor Lane, the fringes of Burial Ground and Arboretum, and Church Path (the footpath skirting the grounds of Denman College heading west towards Frilford). Around Cothill, Dry Sandford Pit Reserve is good, as is any block of woodland or ancient trackways with large trees forming 'linear woodland'.

Never underestimate what birds you can see and encourage into your garden and when you see a Blackcap think about how people, like you, providing food, have helped change the course of bird evolution! **NOTE** Search online for the RSPB and the BTO (British Trust for Ornithology) for the latest facts, pictures and recordings of Blackcap song.

IAN SMITH

(* Smallest UK breeding bird and essential birdy fact for all quiz enthusiasts !)

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Mar 2 WONDER BOYS (USA, 2000, 107mins, Cert 15). Campus comedy based on Michael Chabon novel starring Michael Douglas, Frances McDormand & Tobey Maguire.

Mar 9 Special event: FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE (USA, 1926, CertPG, 55 mins + short film of about 20 mins) Harold Lloyd silent comedy feature with live piano accompaniment by Andrew Youdell. NB Showing at St Nicolas' Church, Market Place, Abingdon at 7.30 pm. Admission £7 (students £3.50).

Mar 16 CRIA CUERVOS (Spain, 1976, 110 mins, Cert 12) modern classic starring Geraldine Chaplin concerning the transition from Franco's fascism.

Mar 23 LONDON ROAD (UK, 2015, 88 mins, Cert 15) film adaption of the National Theatre musical based on the 2006 Ipswich murders.

Mar 30 GEMMA BOVERY (UK, 2014, 99 mins, Cert 15) sharp and amusing UK/French production based on Posy Simmonds graphic novel. Film starts soon after 7.45pm, following social event set around wine and cheese (from 7.15, doors open 7.00). Bring own wine and contribute to cost of food and soft drinks.

All screenings (except March 9th - see above) at 7.45pm at Abingdon Health & Wellbeing Centre, Audlett Drive, OX14 3GD. Adjacent parking. Admission £6 – school and full-time college students £3.

www.abfilms.org.uk or info@abfilms.org.uk or 01235 521976

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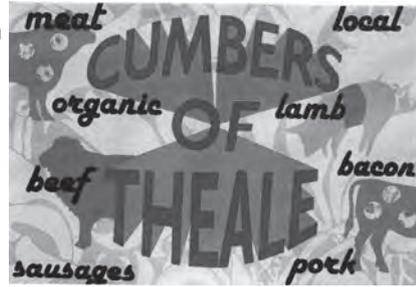


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www.thecrownmarcham.co.uk

Facebook: TheCrownatMarcham

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**MUSIC IN THE VALE presents
Early Spring Sonatas**

Our next Music in the Vale "Early Spring Sonatas" concert features internationally renowned musicians

Alison Bury - violin and **Maggie Cole** - harpsichord in a programme of solos, duos and sonatas by Handel, CPE Bach, Scarlatti, Leclair, JS Bach ...

Where: St. Denys' Church, Church Green, Stanford in the Vale, SN7 8HU

When: Saturday 4th March 7.30pm

How much: £12.00

Admission is by programme from Vogue Hairdressing, 28 High Street, Stanford in the Vale, telephone 01367 710476, by reservation on 01367 718420, email djpedderdpa@btinternet.com, or at the door.



Getting Ahead

**A series of FREE mini talks to equip you,
your carer or family**

Monday mornings from 10.20am-11.30am
At Duffield Place Lounge



- 6th March – Sensory Impairment team – for visual and hearing problems
Jess Brown – advisor and specialist in the Sensory Impairment team
- 13th March – Why get active? How to keep on the move?
Let's have a go together!
Sarah Wheatley from generation Games, Age UK Oxfordshire
- 20th March – Life story work & making a memory box (bring a few photos of your family & childhood)
Ruth Swift – head of Community Information Network for Age UK Oxfordshire
- 27th March – Dementia – what is it? What help is available? How do I support someone I love?
Gilly Fishleigh - Dementia Oxfordshire
- 3rd April – How to keep warm & what help is there available
Matt Neal – Affordable Warmth Network
- For more information contact Rachel Gaisford on 391432

**Marcham Motor Club Meeting on the
7.30 pm 21st March at All Saints' Church**

On Tuesday 21st March we will be having an external speaker, **Les Tyler** who retired from Vickers Defence Systems in 2008. He was appointed Project Manager for the Challenger 2 (the main UK armed forces battle tank) at the start of the programme in 1986 and managed all phases to delivery and In-Service Support. He was also Project Manager for a wheeled Combat Liaison Vehicle and he undertook a number of company strategy activities before retiring in 2008. We welcome anybody with an interest in tanks, or armed fighting vehicles or anybody who wants to know about how our armed forces are protected to what promises to be a fascinating talk.



STRUGGLING WITH DEBTS?

More people saddled with unmanageable debts are turning to Citizens Advice, leading the charity to call for people to seek help before they reach crisis point.

Nationally, a rising number of people have resorted to a debt relief order (DRO) since the amount of debt covered by a DRO rose from £15,000 to £20,000 last October.

DROs are a last resort for people who have exhausted all options for repaying their debts and won't be able to pay in the near future. They work by "pausing" most of your debts for a year so that your creditors can't chase you for repayment. At the end of the year, unless your circumstances change, your debts will be written off.

Debt write-offs can have a serious impact on people's credit rating, which makes it more difficult to take out more credit agreements or even open a new bank account.

Citizens Advice is now urging people who are failing to keep on top of their debts to seek advice early, so that they have the best chance of managing their debts and avoiding debt write-offs. An adviser stressed: "We will discuss your individual situation and look at the options available to you, so that you can make an informed decision about the best kind of debt management for you."

For further help, visit www.citizens.advice.org.uk phone 03444 111 444 or drop in to your nearest Citizens Advice. For locations and opening hours see www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale

Wantage & Grove Lions are holding

- a cash bingo and great raffle at Grove village hall on **Saturday 4th March** doors open 645pm eyes down 730pm
- a grand jumble sale at Hanney British Legion hall on **Saturday 11th March** doors open 130pm lots of bargains get your new spring outfit here



hope to see you there

SAID THE MAIDEN

www.saidthemaide.co.uk

Support: Rory Evans

Thursday 16th March

Doors: 7:00pm Music: 7.15pm | £14

Abingdon Unicorn Theatre

Tickets: www.musicattheunicorn.org.uk

& REMADE GUITARS, (Stratton Way) Coxeter House



Festival of Science & Technology
22nd - 26th March 2017
www.abingdonfestival.org.uk

... brings together scientific institutions and companies, schools, local retailers and the community, in an eclectic mix of science-based events across

five days, the 22nd to the 26th of March.

It's a celebration of the fact that the medieval market town of Abingdon is surrounded by high-tech campus locations on every side and a high proportion of Abingdonians are employed in science and technology jobs.

If you think Abingdon-on-Thames is a quiet backwater, think again! .. and choose an ATOM 2017 event to find out why this historic town is at the epicentre of global science and technology.

THE MARCHAM PLAYERS

Those new to the village might be interested to know that Marcham has a dramatic society – The Marcham Players. In past years, this group have put on many village productions and entertainments. In the absence of a hall the going is currently a little slower but we look forward in hope to the possibilities that a new village facility will bring.



We are meeting on Friday 17th March in the Boardroom at Manor Farm at 7.30 pm. There will be a (very) brief AGM followed by a play reading. Refreshments will be provided. We are a friendly bunch so if you are interested in things theatrical, do come along and say hello!

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

THINGS TO DO



EVERYONE WELCOME!

You are invited to a craft sale at Denman
Saturday 18 March 2017, 10am-3.30pm
Free entrance and parking

All proceeds go to Denman (charity registration no. 803793)

www.denman.org.uk 

Earth Trust Events

Sunday Drop-in: IncrEduable Adventure

Sunday 5th March, 10am-2pm

At this month's Sunday drop-in celebrate spring by foraging for dandelions to cook on the fire and planting herbs and salad to take away. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free.

Wildlife Photography Walk

Saturday 11th March, 8am-10am

Join photographer Andrew Walmsley for a morning stroll around the nature reserve. Check out our beginner and intermediate workshops too. £20; booking essential: 01865 407792 or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee).

Beginners Wildlife Photography

Saturday 18th March, 10am-3pm

Professional photographer Andrew Walmsley will help you get to grips with your camera and provide guidance on capturing images of wildlife. There are a series of workshops running throughout the next few months – book one or more as a course: first workshop £80, subsequent workshops 15% off. Booking essential: 01865 407792 or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee).

Intermediate Wildlife Photography

Sunday 19th March, 10am-3pm

In each of these workshops professional photographer Andrew Walmsley will cover a different aspect of photography so you can build up a more in-depth knowledge. Future intermediate workshops: 22nd April, 14th May and 18th June; book one or more as a course: first workshop £80, subsequent workshops 15% off. Booking essential: 01865 407792 or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee).

Lambing Weekends

Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th March, Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd April, 11am-4pm.

Come and see us down on the farm during our annual Lambing Weekends! Meet lambs, piglets, goats and more. Craft activities and refreshments available. £7 adult, £3 child, £17 family (discount for online bookings), FREE for Earth Trust Friends..

More details www.earthtrust.org.uk Little Wittenham, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 4QZ 01865 407792



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Abingdon-on-Thames

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£11,830

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Fund-raising Burns Supper

MCG joined together with Marcham PCC to organise a Burns Night, held in Marcham Church on the evening of Saturday 28th January 2017. We had around 80 people at the event, who enjoyed the traditional meal, speeches and recitations— and some were brave enough to try the Scottish dancing at the end. After the expenses incurred in catering for the event, we have raised a little over £1,600 towards the new community facilities, a great result for the evening. The project plans for the new facilities are being progressed through meetings of the Community Facilities Steering Group.



A massive thank you to the PCC and to all who helped to make this event possible and to all the people who supported it!



Burns Night 2017 raises funds for community facilities

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

www.marcham.org



BURNS NIGHT

Put together an enthusiastic organising team with a clutch of volunteers from All Saints' Church and Marcham Community Group, all keen supporters of Robbie Burns, that extraordinary Scottish poet from the eighteenth century, with eighty highly excitable people eager to take part in the traditional ceremonies to celebrate his life, and place them in the unusual setting of an Anglican church, and you have the perfect formula for a hugely successful and highly enjoyable evening. The old church building was transformed. Pews were pushed back to allow long tables to be joined together to form huge banqueting tables covered with sky blue table cloths and adorned with sparkling glasses, bottles of wine and silverware at each place setting. To add a feeling of warmth two roaring log fires glowed on huge TV screens at either end of the church, and to keep to the Scottish tradition everybody came wearing some tartan, ranging from genuine Scottish kilts, trousers or sashes to a piece of plaid pinned on them.

Once everybody had found their place and the noise of happy chatter and laughter had subsided, ceremonies began in the traditional way with the Selkirk Grace given by Ron Morton, followed by the haggis parade. The haunting sounds of a Scottish bagpipe filled the church as Donald Asher, who had come especially from the Highlands for this occasion, piped between the clapping tables in front of the steaming hot haggis, held high for all to see, and Jim Asher did the honours by addressing the haggis in solemn tones. Delicious home-made food [thank you so much all the cooks] with a variety of drinks then appeared like magic on all the tables – what superb organisation! – and happy chomping, chatting and drinking ensued. Feeling replete and full of joie de

vie, we were treated to light entertainment with taunting toasts to "The Immortal Memory" and "The Lassies" with a "Reply frae the Lassies" by laddies, Simon Blackmore and Richard Webber, and lassie, Elaine Steere, respectively. Then followed poetry chosen and recited by lassies Katriona Jones, Sheila Dunford and Denise Asher, which made us laugh, grimace or ponder before we were drawn into the musical part of the celebrations. The church throbbed with the sound of wild singing from all and sundry – even if they didn't know the words, "La-La-La" was a good substitute by that time of the evening – and once the tables and chairs were cleared and pulled back, Scottish dancing swung into action, ably guided by James and Jenny Allan. Whoops and shouts echoed up and down the lines as everybody danced and twirled the rest of the evening away, and just before carriages at midnight arrived to take us away, we clasped hands in a huge circle around the church to sing that old favourite, Auld Lang Syne, accompanied by a lone piper. Burns Night was indeed a hugely successful and highly enjoyable evening, a shining example of how groups can merge and work together for the village, and over sixteen hundred pounds was raised towards community facilities...what a fantastic effort! The County and District Councils of Oxfordshire would do well to take notes from such an example of close cooperation as we head for a single Unitary in the years to come. It only remains for me to say a BIG thank you to all those who came and took part, and most particularly to Denise and Jim Asher, who in their inimitably quiet and efficient way guided and led the large organising team, and the even larger team of supporters. Please can we repeat the whole event next year?

CATHERINE WEBBER

All Saints' Church Page

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

Dear Friends,

This year Lent coincides with the month of March, Ash Wednesday being the 1st March!

In his Lenten message for this year, Pope Francis states: *"Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ's victory over death. This season urgently calls us to conversion. Christians are asked to return to God 'with all their hearts' (Joel 2:12), to refuse to settle for mediocrity and to grow in friendship with the Lord. Jesus is the faithful friend who never abandons us. Even when we sin, he patiently awaits our return; by that patient expectation, he shows us his readiness to forgive (cf. Homily, 8 January 2016)."*

Wise words, I think. Lent can be a very special time of the year, but in my experience, we have to determine to make it so, otherwise it simply passes us by, almost without a second thought. The forty days spent by Jesus in the wilderness of Sinai must have been tough, yet special. What did he learn through the solitude, the silence, the 'going without'? We are told in the Bible that at the end of those days he faced evil full on, being tempted to use his calling and status for wrong ends or immediate gratification of need, but won through by careful reference to God's truth. But I also wonder what those testing 40 days also taught him?

I note with interest that in his later ministry Jesus frequently left the crowds of onlookers, even his disciples, to seek out places of solitude in order to make space for deep communication with his heavenly Father. Could this be one result of those desert times?

Learning to listen to God away from the noise and business of life could be part of our Lenten experience this year, making time and space for quietness, solitude, alone but not alone, time for deep spiritual renewal, a deep returning to God, and growth in friendship with the Lord Jesus. Your parish church is open during the daylight hours for prayer, for stillness, for listening, and so may I invite you to use this space for Lenten reflection this year?

I hope that Lent this year is full of meaning for you, and that you can, with determination, make space in busy lives for a fresh encounter with the Lord who loves you, and that through that encounter a deep renewal of spirit would burst into life.

With my warmest Lenten greetings,

Richard

Revd. Canon Richard Zair, Vicar

Regular services

Sundays: 10am & 6pm at All Saints'

Wednesdays: 10.30am at Duffield Place

GETTING AHEAD

A series of free mini talks to equip you, your carer or family. Monday mornings, 10.30-11.30am at Duffield Place Lounge. For more information contact Rachel Gaisford on 391432

Church @4all

Do you want to get to church, but find Sunday mornings difficult? On Sunday 12th March, we will be trialling an afternoon service at 4pm. This will be an informal, family-friendly service. All are welcome

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

Saturday 18th March, 8.30am at the Baptist Hall – Changing Room (Women's breakfast)

Contacts: Rev. Canon Richard Zair 391319 vicar@allsaintsmarcham.org * Jill Rowe *Children's and families Minister* 390885 families@allsaintsmarcham.org * Rob Finch *Youth Worker* 07888331708, rob@marchamyouth.org * Tim Jack *Churchwarden* 01865 864900 * Debbie Flint *Churchwarden* 01865 391056 * Tamsin Gilbert *Parish Administrator* 391319 * Parish Office: info@allsaintsmarcham.org