

# Marcham & District News

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

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



DECEMBER 2018 VOL: 40 NO: 12

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ St John Ambulance Cadet Unit on Parade For more info on the unit email [rob.finch@sja.org.uk](mailto:rob.finch@sja.org.uk)



▲ Marcham's Wayside Cross decorated with wreaths on Remembrance Sunday



▲ Congratulations Neil! see page 11



▲ Marcham WI enjoying a cream tea recently at 'Annie's at the Boathouse' tea rooms in Abingdon see page 7

A  
MIX  
OF ALL  
THINGS  
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MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL



**XMAS  
FAIR**

6PM FRIDAY 7th DECEMBER

## Diary for December

1 Sat	Christmas Craft Morning, All Saints' Church, 09.30-12.30	2	12 Wed	Café Christmas Tea, 15.00-17.00, Baptist Hall	2
1 Sat	Abingdon Extravaganza, 10.00	2	12 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3
4-8	Christmas Tree Festival, Bury St, Abingdon, 10.00-16.00	18	13 Thur	Marcham WI, Christmas Party, Denman College, 19.30	7
5 Wed	MCG AGM and Public Meeting, Marcham School, 19.30	13	13 Thur	ABCD Film Club: <i>Adam Simcox Presents</i> , 19.45	15
6 Thu	Midweek Walk Fox Inn, Boars Hill 12.30 lunch / 13.30 Walk	7	14 Fri	Carols at The Crown, 19.30-22.00	2
6 Thur	Music at the Unicorn: The Dylan Project, 19.00	15	15 Sat	Deadline for next MADNews, 17.00 <a href="mailto:editor@madnews.co.uk">editor@madnews.co.uk</a>	
6 Thur	ABCD Film Club: <i>Madam De</i> , 19.45	15	15 Sat	<i>The Lorelei</i> , Grove Village Hall, 17.00	18
7 Fri	Coffee Morning with Raffle and Cake Stall, 50 North St, Marcham, 10.30-12.30	7	16 Sun	Carol Singing around Marcham, 16.00-18.30	2
7 Fri	Marcham School Christmas Fair, 18.00-20.00	9	18 Tue	The Magic of Christmas, Marcham School	9
8-18	St Andrew's, Hagbourne, Christmas Tree Festival	18	18 Tue	Last Posting Date for 2nd class inland mail	5
8 Sat	Wantage and Grove Lions Bingo, Grove Village Hall, 18.45	18	20 Thur	Last Posting Date for 1st class inland mail	5
11 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00-15.30	7	20 Thur	ABCD Film Club: <i>The Apartment</i> , 19.45	15
11 Tue	Marcham Society Christmas Social, All Saints' Church, 19.30	7	23 Sun	Carols by Candlelight, All Saints' Church, 18.00	2
			24 Mon	Crib Service, All Saints' Church, 16.00	20
			24 Mon	Midnight Communion, 23.00	20
			25 Tue	Christmas Family Service, All Saints', 10.00	20
			25 Tue	Christmas Day Service, St Luke's, 10.30	20
			28 Fri	Revised date for waste collection green & food	7

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

# CHRISTMASSY THINGS TO DO

## Carol Singing Around the Village - 16 Dec, 4pm-6:30pm

As part of their Christmas programme, a group from All Saints' will be singing carols at six different locations around the village. Come and enjoy this with your neighbours at any of the locations and maybe arrange to enjoy some festive refreshments together afterwards. The time and locations are:

- 4pm - Sweetbriar
- 4:25 - Tower Close
- 4:50 - Duffield Place
- 5:15 - The Pastures
- 5:40 - Anson Close
- 6:05 - Willow Farm/Pointer Place

More information on precise locations will be available nearer the time, contact [youth@allsaintsmarcham.org](mailto:youth@allsaintsmarcham.org)

## Abingdon Extravaganza Saturday 1 December

Free Parking  
Live Music from 10am in Bath Street & 11 am on the Market Place, Punch & Judy throughout the afternoon.  
Crafts & activities in the Community shop & St Nicolas Church, a wonderful Illusion Fireworks Ltd show and lots lots more:  
Facebook: [abingdonxmas](https://www.facebook.com/abingdonxmas) and [abingdonchamber.co.uk](http://abingdonchamber.co.uk)

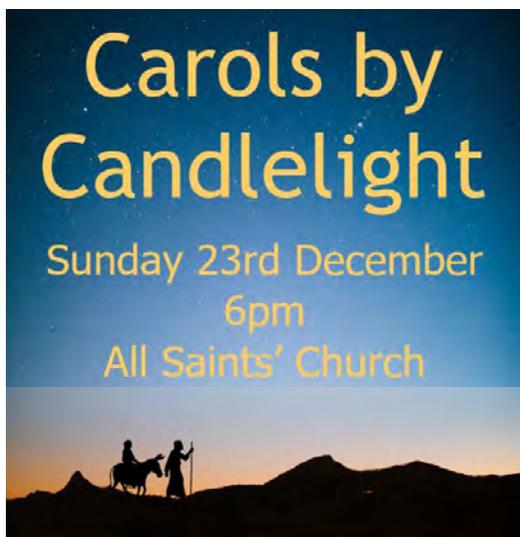


## Café Christmas Tea

Wednesday 12th December  
3-5pm, Baptist Hall  
Everyone welcome

**The Christmas Crib** will be on display at Yeoman's Cottage, Mill Road from 1st December.

Jean arranges her collection of *santons* in the window of her cottage every year for all to see, even providing a step for children to stand on to peer in wonder at the scene!



## Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 23rd December  
6pm  
All Saints' Church



## CAROLS AT THE CROWN AT MARCHAM

FRIDAY 14<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER  
7.30 TO 10.00 P.M.

## AN EVENING OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND SONGS

COME ALONG AND JOIN THE START OF THE FESTIVITIES WITH MINCE PIES AND SAUSAGE ROLLS PROVIDED.

UNFORTUNATELY, DUE TO THE FACT THAT WE ARE A LICENSED PREMISES AND WE HAVE LIMITED SPACE, CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OLD WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO ATTEND THIS EVENT.

HOWEVER OUR FRIENDS AT THE CHURCH OFFER SEVERAL FAMILY SERVICES AND WOULD BE VERY HAPPY FOR YOU TO JOIN THEM



## Christmas Craft Morning

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December  
9.30am - 12.30pm  
All Saints' Church

Come along and have a go at making a wreath for your door, a table decoration, candle holders and more. You do not need to be artistic or crafty—there will be people to help you create something amazing!

All are welcome.

Refreshments will be provided.

*Dear Readers*

Another year nearly over, and it's time to brace ourselves for the mince pies and flaming puddings once more.

Thank you to everyone who helps to create, proof-read and deliver MADNews – it is a wonderful collaborative effort, I am truly grateful to you all!

*Until next time - happy holidays*



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

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

**DISCLAIMER**

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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Or just dial 101 (non-emergency) and omit the C from his number

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**COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Richard Webber, Orchard Barn, Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ  
Tel: 01235 534001  
Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com

**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**  
**SGN Networks**

At the last Parish Council meeting, representatives from the gas network company SGN gave a presentation about their proposals to replace the main gas supply pipes all along the A415 from the A34 to the village. Unfortunately this does mean that when the work commences next year in late winter, there will be two way traffic lights controlling the traffic. The new pipe will be 50% larger than the existing one, so will be able to serve a larger number of houses, not necessarily in Marcham, but further afield such as in Kingston Bagpuize. SGN has plans for a leaflet drop around households, and an exhibition drop-in session, where further information can be obtained. They will also be setting up, in due course, a webpage with facts about the projects. The Parish Council had concerns regarding the effect on air quality around the bends, caused by queues of traffic caught by the traffic lights. SGN took away with them this point, and were liaising with the County Council to discuss the matter.

**Parishioner of the Year Award - Marcham**

The Parish Council is again inviting nominations for the Parishioner of the Year Award. This is to recognise the efforts of local people from anywhere within the parish who have contributed to local community life. Marcham Parish covers the wide area from the A420 in the north to the River Ock in the South and from the A338 in the West across to and including most of Gozzards Ford in the East. The Council gives the award to anyone who, at any time, has significantly contributed to life within the parish. Should there not be any appropriate nominations, then the award need not be made. The certificate is presented at the annual meeting for electors each year. Would anyone who wishes to submit a nomination please contact the clerk, whose details appear opposite, sending a short statement of not more than 200 words, as to whom he/she wishes to nominate and the reasons why the person should receive the award.

**High Sheriff Awards**

Nominations are invited for the High Sheriff Awards for 2018/19. Nominations can be made by anyone who lives or works in Oxfordshire or who is representing an organisation in the public, voluntary and charitable or private sectors. Nominations will be welcome for people who have made outstanding contributions to any aspect of community life but in the current year nominations in the following areas will be particularly welcome from individuals who are, or have been, involved in:-

- Coaching or volunteering in Youth Sport and Youth Leadership organisations.
- Youth projects associated with the Arts and Education.
- Mental health work in the community.

- Communication initiatives in communities.

Nominations should arrive with the High Sheriff before Thursday 10th January 2019 and sent via email to [Oxfordshirehighsheriff@outlook.com](mailto:Oxfordshirehighsheriff@outlook.com) or by post to: The High Sheriff of Oxfordshire, c/o VSL & Partners, 22 Bankside, Kidlington, Oxon, OX5 1JE.

**School Admissions – Entry to primary or infant school September 2019**

If you are a parent or carer of a child 3 or 4 years old then you need to apply for a primary school place now. This is for children born between 1st September 2014 and 31st August 2015 (inclusive). You still have to apply even if your child already attends a nursery attached to the school. For further information and to apply online go to <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/starting-school/infant-and-primary-school> The closing date for applications is 15th January, 2019. If you do not have internet access, then you can access the internet at many of the County Council's libraries, or telephone the schools' admissions team on 0345 241 2487 for further information

**The following planning applications have been considered :**

P18/V2523/ Incorporation of rear parking area into private garden and create parking to front of dwelling at 71 Howard Cornish Road. Council had concerns as the shared access/turning area had been removed. If the application were approved, there was a need for a dropped kerb to be installed at the front of the dwelling.

P18/V2546/LB and P18/V2545/FUL Conversion of existing listed barn to new 3 bed detached dwelling at The White House, 12 Frilford Road. Council had no objections.

P2473/O Erection of 114 dwellings with public open space, landscaping and sustainable drainage system, on land north of Longfields with vehicular access points from Leas Lane.

Council objected to the application on various grounds, including the accumulative effect of more housing for Marcham, particularly on traffic and air quality. The site was not in the District Council's Local Plan, and its location was too far away from the centre of the village.

**Date of Next Council Meeting:**

Wednesday 12th December 2018 at 7.30p.m. **in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place.** Please check noticeboard outside the Institute and/or the Council's website [www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk) in case arrangements change.

**Clerk to the Council:** Mrs. L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Rd, 01865 391833  
clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk  
**www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk**

**The Council wishes everyone a happy Christmas.**

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**Royal British Legion “Poppy Appeal” 2018**

As local organisers of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal in the following areas: Marcham, Garford, Frilford, Gozzards Ford, part of Cothill - we would like to say a sincere **Thank You** to all the collectors who gave freely of their time to collect in their local areas. Thanks to all the companies, business and school premises who allowed us to place collection tins in prominent positions and the local Hotels and pubs that supported our collection. We had a target of £6000 in mind for this year's appeal and we worked hard to achieve this figure. However, we didn't realise just how you would all get behind this year's appeal and through your incredible generosity we would like to announce our final collection came to:

**£7,069.15**

Thank you so much.  
We will Remember Them.  
**Malcolm and Christine Denton**  
**01865 391497 / 07516761040**



**Planning Applications considered by Frilford Parish Meeting**

**P18/V2826/HH** The Coach House Beverley House Oxford Road Frilford Abingdon OX13 5NU. First floor extension with dormer windows over existing ground floor.

**P18/V2519/FUL** Plot 6 Hidden Brook Oxford Road Frilford Abingdon OX13 5NS. Erection of Single Dwelling

**P18/V2518/FUL** 5 Hidden Brook Oxford Road Frilford Abingdon OX13 5NS. Erect Single Dwelling

**P18/V2517/FUL** Plot 4 Hidden Brook Oxford Road Frilford Abingdon OX13 5NS. Erect Single Dwelling



*Café Christmas Tea*  
*Wednesday 12th December from*  
*3-5pm in the Baptist Hall*  
*All Welcome*

On Thursday 15th November our cat Vera was sadly knocked down by a car on the Sheepstead road. Someone kindly took her to the vet. We would like to thank this person for their kind act. If you are that person or know who that person is? Please contact us on 07917748431.

**RAFFLE TICKETS**

I would like to thank everyone who bought raffle tickets from me for the Abingdon Community Hospital League of Friends winter draw.

**RUTH MANDER**

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**Holiday Opening Hours**

24 Dec: 08.00 - 12 noon

25 and 26: CLOSED

27 - 31 Dec: 08.00 - 12 noon

New Year's Day: CLOSED

Wed 2 Jan: back to normal hours

Visit us on Facebook: marchamvillageshop

Last acceptance time for post on weekdays is 16.45

*If have difficulty getting to the shops during bad weather, call us on 391993 and we will get your essential supplies to you.*

**Last Posting Dates:**

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Tuesday 4 December	Africa, Middle East
Friday 7 December	Cyprus, Malta, Asia, Far East, Eastern Europe (except Poland, Czech Republic and Slovakia)
Saturday 8 December	Caribbean, Central & South America
Monday 10 December	Greece, Turkey, Australia, New Zealand
Friday 14 December	Canada, Czech Republic, Italy, Poland, USA
Saturday 15 December	Finland, Sweden
Monday 17 December	Austria, Denmark, Germany, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland
Tuesday 18 December	Belgium, France, Ireland, Luxembourg

**International Standard HM Forces Mail - British Forces Post Office® (BFPO)**

Friday 14 December	Airmail to Static BFPOs
<b>UK Inland Services</b>	
Tuesday 18 December	2nd Class and Royal Mail Signed For®
Thursday 20 December	1st Class and Royal Mail Signed For®, Royal Mail Tracked 48®
Friday 21 December	Royal Mail Tracked 24®
Saturday 22 December	Royal Mail Special Delivery Guaranteed®

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**SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!**

From 2 – 3.30pm  
 Tuesday 11th December.  
 Come and join us in the  
 common room at Duffield  
 Place, you will be sure of a  
 warm welcome ... and tea and cake!  
 Phone 391270 for more details *Christine Whild*



**Marcham WI**

**Date:** Thursday, 13th December  
**Time:** 7.30pm  
**Venue:** Denman College  
**Topic:** Christmas Party



Our December Christmas Party is on Thursday 13th December. we have planned a fun and exciting evening and we very much look forward to seeing you all there. Don't forget to wear something Christmassy, bring something for the Bring and Share supper and yourselves. Also, remember it is the 2nd Thursday of the month, not the 3rd.

Once again we will be having a a collection of non-perishable Christmas treats for the food bank, perhaps wrapped in cellophane so the item can be seen, or decorated with ribbon. There will also be a donations box for the Blood Bikers charity rather than exchanging Christmas cards. So come and join us for our Festive evening!

*New members and visitors  
 are always welcome*

*For further information, please contact:  
 Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com*

**MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK:**

**Thursday, December 6th**

For this short winter walk of about 3 miles we will be eating at the Fox Inn on Boars Hill (Map Ref: SP490015, OX1 5DR). We will meet at the usual time of 12.30 for lunch and start the walk at 1.30. We will be having a stroll through the extensive woodlands on the hill.



Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for further details and car-sharing, especially if you are not on our email list as sometimes late changes have to be made. Members free, non-members £1. We always welcome new walkers.

**You are invited to a coffee morning  
 with RAFFLE and CAKE STALL  
 at**

**50, NORTH STREET, MARCHAM  
 FRIDAY, 7th DECEMBER**

**From 10.30 - 12.00**

**In aid of Nyakabungo School Girls' School  
 All Welcome  
 Ann Gover**



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 before the deadline of 20th of the month All personal adverts are free of charge

**Holiday Waste Collections (grey = rubbish)**

Normal day	Revised day	Which bin?
Wed 26 Dec	Fri 28 Dec	Green, food, <b>NOT</b> brown (garden)
Wed 2 Jan	Fri 4 Jan	Grey and food
Wed 9 Jan	Thurs 10 Jan	Green, food, brown

**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**



*The  
 Marcham  
 Society*

Further details:  
 Sheila Dunford (391439)  
 or Judith Fontaine (391275)

**Christmas Social  
 for members**

*All Saints' Church, Marcham*

*7.30 pm*

*Tuesday 11th December*

**www.marchamsociety.org.uk**



**MARCHAM SOCIETY REPORT**

On 13 November our speaker was Mike Hoath. Inspired by the work done by Elizabeth Whitehouse to discover more about the men behind the names, he has made a study of each man who served in the First World War. By showing photographs of the men and telling us about their lives, Mike brought the characters sharply into focus.

From Marcham, Garford and Frilford 200 men went to war and 42 died - at 21% this was higher than the national average of 10-12%. Some were regular soldiers who were serving in India before war was declared, but most were local farmworkers such as Edward Charles Carter, who was the first to die in 1914.

There were eight losses in 1915. 1916 was the worst year of the War with 16 deaths, including the first of two Smewing brothers, Joseph. Frank West died in June 1916, a civilian lost in the sinking of H.M.S. Hampshire. July 1916 was a particularly grim month with six men from the District killed at the Somme, five of whom have no known grave. During 1917 ten men died and in 1918 another seven, including two more brothers, Charles and Harry Edmonds, and the second Smewing brother, Arthur. Noting examples of the contribution of women, Lucy Anson was matron of a military hospital and Temperance Dyer was an auxiliary nurse.

The talk concluded by pointing out that, for some, the War did not finish in 1918. In the District, the War left men disabled, left widows and left children without fathers. The last person who had lost their father did not die until 2004 – the War cast a long shadow.

**JF**

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**MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL**

Following Bonfire Night and local firework displays the children were bubbling with news of fireworks, bangs, crackles and whizzes! This was obviously the perfect time to explore this experience at pre-school (after all, how can we explore something BEFORE it's happened?). With memories fresh in their minds we talked about the night sky, as we painted our whiteboard BLACK, using our gross motor skills and shoulder muscles to stretch up and across (fabulous exercise for early writing development). We then explored the colours seen, the noises made and the patterns created across the sky... this led to flicking and 'throwing' paint into the 'sky'! There was a fantastic firework finale with lots of the children 'exploding' across the board and a discussion on where to stand safely!!! ... I'd love to share ALL of the photographs with you - they captured a wonderful week.... which concluded with the children helping to wash off the black paint!!



We love providing an open-ended environment for the children to explore and then allow the children to lead their own play. We have also been very busy practising our Christmas songs for the nativity at the end of this month, the children are all very excited! The children at nursery enjoyed a day of spotty fun to celebrate children in need this month! The children made Pudsey masks and created spotty creatures! Thank you for all your donations!

**After School Club**

We have been learning all about World War One this term and the children have been very busy creating 100 poppies to create our remembrance display. We have written WW1 poems and letters to loved ones and shown our respect for the soldiers who fought for our country. It has been lovely to see the children so engaged in our country's history!

**Our Exciting News**

We are very proud to announce we have recently been Ofsted rated GOOD IN ALL AREAS. We are so proud of our award-winning team and happy to share our good news!



"The manager is highly qualified, well organised and aspirational. She leads and continues to develop the hard-working, skilled and enthusiastic staff who have their eyes firmly set on providing high-quality care and learning for all children." Ofsted 2018

**If you would like to be part of Little Angels Family, where our home is your home, please contact us on 01865 819992 or [marcham@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk](mailto:marcham@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk), see [www.littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk](http://www.littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk) and follow us on Facebook: littleangelsmarcham**



This month we've also watched and recorded as our pumpkins broke down and decayed before leaving them to the wildlife.. and monitoring for signs that animals have been tempted in... We've been drawing and mark-making daily, with the children keen on making 'wanted' posters for things that seem to have gone missing... a favourite doll, a glove, my iPad and Marion's glasses!! Such fantastic learning opportunities to draw, to describe, to label, to discuss, to ask questions, to remember, to play....

If you would like to find out more about Marcham Pre-school, please do get in touch. We are open 8.55-3pm term time only, and offer funding for all 3/4 year olds (15 and 30 hours), some 2 year olds (15 hours) and flexible attendance patterns. If you are considering a place for September 2019 please contact us NOW, sessions are already booking fast. There is no obligation and no registration fee to pay - ring us on 01865 392101 or email [marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk).

**Nicky Sanford,**

Early Years Teacher, Marcham Pre-School 01865 392101  
[www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com](http://www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com)

**NEWS FROM LITTLE ANGELS**

**Baby Room**

It's been another busy month in our baby room. We have been very musical having dancing and musical instrument sessions! Our babies enjoy moving their bodies to the different music. Our babies have enjoyed various sensory activities daily such as Weetabix play, playdough, flour as well as water and sand play. They love making marks and feeling the different textures in their hands. A great activity we did this month is to put different liquids in sealable lunch bags for them to mark make. Putting paint in these bags is such a simple and mess-free way for your little angel to mark making, why not try it at home.

**Preschool**

Our preschool children have been very imaginative this month. We had a delivery of large cardboard boxes which the children then transformed into rockets, spaceships, houses and so much more.



Pink coat found on Friday 19th Oct on the footpath near Harding Way near where the children wait for the Larkmead school bus.  
Contact 07816595236 to arrange collection.

**PTA Update**

Many thanks to everyone who supported the school disco last month, PTA committee members and parents who helped supervise the event and, of course, the pupils strutting their stuff under the flashing lights.



Our **Christmas Fair** is nearly here! Do you have **Friday 7 December** in your diary? The Fair runs from 6 to 8pm, and there is loads to see and do for all the family. Every penny raised is ploughed back into the school, so it's a very worthy cause as well as being a great night out!

And then we have a brand new family event. Magic Peter is bringing his 2018 Magic of Christmas Show to Marcham School. Suitable for all the family but particular aimed a pre-school and primary school ages, it's an hour and a half of magic and fun celebrating the festive period. Santa and Rudolph, Christmas presents and snowmen, the North Pole and more Elves on the Shelves than you can shake a candy cane at!! Precise details are being finalised and will be publicised in the school's newsletter or ParentMail and on the Marcham Parents Facebook page. **The Magic of Christmas at Marcham School on the evening of 18 December.** Tickets will be available from the first week of December.

*See you on the school run.*

**Peter Kidd**

**PTA Chair** 07708 251312 [peter.kidd61@btinternet.com](mailto:peter.kidd61@btinternet.com)

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**NEIL ROWE FELLOW OF MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE**

Neil has been awarded a Myerscough College Honorary Fellowship in recognition of his outstanding contribution in the field of agriculture and innovative practices in both dairy and beef sectors.

Neil said: *"I'm very humbled and honoured to receive this award. From a very early age all I wanted to do was be a farmer. I started from the age of seven and have been fortunate to have worked with people who have believed in me and taught me about lifelong learning. My advice to students graduating and receiving their qualifications is to seek out as many opportunities as you can. Wherever you go there are always opportunities to learn new things. Take them and use them wisely. The most valuable lesson I've learned is that change is inevitable, but success isn't. I'd like to wish everyone every success in their chosen career."*



**Could you adopt with PACT?**

Adoption charity Parents And Children Together (PACT) is appealing for a forever family for a busy and bubbly two-and-a-half year-old girl called Jasmine.

Described as a happy and sociable little girl, Jasmine has some developmental delay and suspected Foetal Alcohol Syndrome. PACT is looking for an adoptive family who would be comfortable with Jasmine's health needs and able to offer her a nurturing and loving environment.

PACT is looking for a home for Jasmine through its Finding Families Together service, which it provides to local authorities for children who have been waiting a long time to be adopted.

Jasmine, who has been in foster care for 18 months, is one of more than 2,000 children in England waiting to be adopted. In the South East children waiting to be adopted outnumber adopters by three to one.

PACT, which offers outstanding Ofsted-rated adoption services to families across the South East, is one of the leading independent adoption charities in the country. Last year the charity helped transform the lives of 82 children by finding them their forever families.

PACT adopters can be couples or single people, of all ages, ethnicities and backgrounds.

PACT Chief Executive Jan Fishwick OBE said: "I would urge anyone who thinks they can provide a loving, secure home to Jasmine, or a child or children like her who need it, to please get in touch with us to find out more."

One PACT adopter said: "We couldn't imagine our lives without children now and it all started with an initial enquiry with PACT. This has been an amazing journey for us and if it is something that you are considering, when the time is right for you, PACT will be there to hold your hand throughout every stage."

For more information about Jasmine, including a film about her, see [www.pactcharity.org/jasmine](http://www.pactcharity.org/jasmine)

To find out more about adopting with PACT see [www.pactcharity.org/adoption](http://www.pactcharity.org/adoption) where you can download a brief guide to adoption, see the answers to some frequently asked questions about adoption, read the stories of people who have adopted with PACT and find out about PACT's adoption information events coming up.

For more information please call 0300 456 4800 or email [enquiries@pactcharity.org](mailto:enquiries@pactcharity.org)



PARENTS AND CHILDREN TOGETHER

**DO YOU HAVE A SPARE ROOM IN YOUR HOUSE? SHARE YOUR HOME AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Do you feel that you could offer support to someone in order to make a difference to their life? If so, you could be just the person we are looking for!!

The Oxfordshire Shared Lives Scheme supports carers to provide paid care and support in their own home to vulnerable adults.

People who use the service need practical and emotional support in order to live their lives more fully and independently and feel part of a family household. They may have a learning disability, physical disability or mental health need or they could be an older person or someone with dementia.

Here in Oxfordshire we are keen to recruit people from all walks of life who feel they can offer this type of paid support in their own home. It could be anything from occasional short breaks or day time support through to a longer term full time arrangement. The support that our carers give makes a huge difference to the lives of people using the service, often enabling them to experience new opportunities and reach new goals.

No matter what type of arrangement our carers provide, they all receive on-going support and training from a team of qualified social workers to ensure delivery of high quality, person centred care. They could also be paid up to just over £400 per week for each person they support.

There are also regular opportunities to meet up with other carers and people who use the service at social and information events so a wider support network is also available.

If you have a spare room to offer and would like to play a key part in making a positive difference to someone's life, **then we really want to hear from you!**

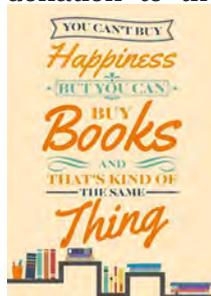
Call the Oxfordshire Shared Lives Scheme on 01865 897971 or visit our website [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sharedlives](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sharedlives)

**We are also holding a drop-in session for people to come and find out more about the service by chatting to other carers, social workers from the Shared Lives Team and people using the service. This will be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December between 1.00 pm and 2.30 pm at Abbey House, Abbey Close, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 3JD. We look forward to meeting you!!**



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**mostly books** is working with Breckon and Breckon this Christmas to source books for children who, otherwise, might not receive a present. So we are asking if you could buy an extra book for donation to the charity **Children Heard and Seen** [childrenheardandseen.co.uk](http://childrenheardandseen.co.uk)



You can drop us a line [books@mostly-books.co.uk](mailto:books@mostly-books.co.uk), come into the shop or donate the cost of a book via our new online payment system and a member of the team will choose a book on your behalf. You can access online payments on our website [mostly-books.co.uk](http://mostly-books.co.uk). Many thanks in advance.

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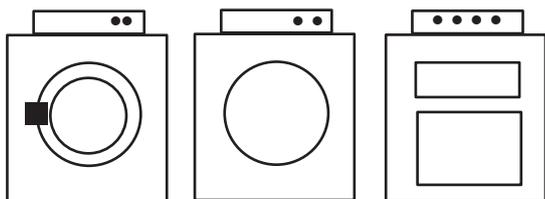
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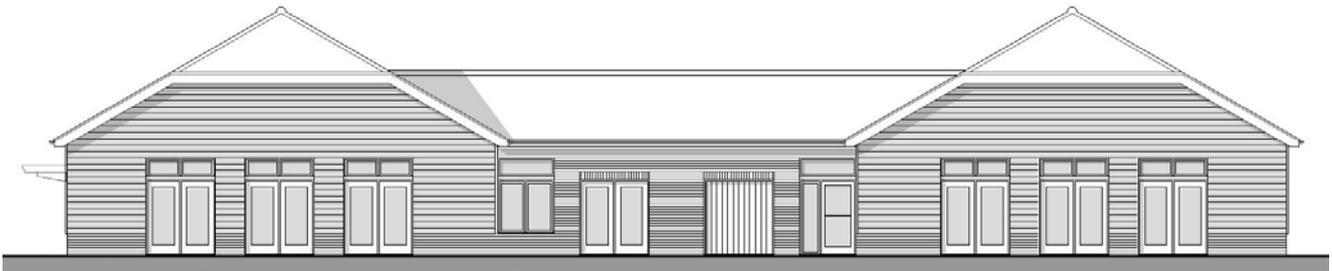
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## MarchamCentre — site work update

A start to on-site work to build the new community facilities—Marcham Centre—has been delayed by some weeks, due to the electricity supply company unilaterally cancelling a temporary supply application and forcing Thomas Homes to reapply. We now expect ground works to begin on site at the beginning of February. We are not clear yet how this will affect the target completion date. Let’s hope this is a one-off frustration and that work will move ahead effectively after this hold-up.



## Public Meeting and AGM—5th December at 7.30 pm

We will hold a **Public Meeting and AGM** on **Wednesday 5th December** at **Marcham Primary School** beginning at **7:30pm**. We will present progress with the project over the last year, details of the new building, construction plans and updated timetable, and areas where we still need help. This is your chance to find out more about the project. You will be able to ask questions and raise any issues about the plans.

Everyone is welcome to come along to the meeting and find out more about our new facilities and how they will be operated for the whole community. Please come and show your support—it would be very helpful.

During the brief formal AGM, there will be an election by members for four trustee seats— two trustees are retiring, creating two vacancies, and two trustees are standing down by rotation and are eligible for re-election. We will be seeking to recruit new trustees to fill the two vacancies. We would especially welcome involvement from amongst those who have moved into Marcham more recently. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Jim Asher ([jim.asher@btinternet.com](mailto:jim.asher@btinternet.com)) for information. If you are not already a member, please join MCG before or at the AGM if you wish to vote .

The three MCG committees are working on practical details: Hall Committee (Chair: Chris Ricketts—[chris.ricketts47@btinternet.com](mailto:chris.ricketts47@btinternet.com)), Field Committee (Chair: Trevor Hill—[trevor3chancel@aol.com](mailto:trevor3chancel@aol.com)) and Finance & General Purposes Committee (Please contact Jim Asher). We have made good progress recruiting people to join these committees and would welcome further offers of help. We are keen to involve people with a range of interests and, especially, people who have recently moved to Marcham who may have skills, experience and new ideas that we would value. Please contact Jim Asher (as below) or the relevant committee Chair to find out more.

We are also at the early stages of planning a big community/fund-raising event in late summer of 2019— watch this space for further details!

Public Meeting: 5th December



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**DECEMBER EVENTS IN ABINGDON**

1st December Christmas Extravaganza Day free parking day in civic car parks (check the signs), a market in Bath Street, entertainment, lights switch-on and fireworks, shops close 6.00 pm  
Free crafts activities in County Hall Museum

3rd December The Nutcracker boxoffice@abingdon.org.uk

8th December Christmas Craft Fair Market Place

15th December Christmas Bazaar

16th December Pavlova Wind Quintet Christmas Concert at St Nicolas Church 3.00 pm professional quintet, with drinks and mince pies

21st December Carols at the Farmers' Market  
Unicorn Cinema: Mary Poppins Returns through the whole Christmas week <https://theunicorn.ac>

26th December morning MG rally Market Place

1st January New Year's Day walks  
Abingdon Morris at Cherry Tree Steventon at lunchtime

**ALL IT TAKES IS ONE DISTRACTION**

Did you know that 1 in 3 people rescued from house fires in Oxfordshire are rescued from cooking fires? Or that distraction is the main cause of cooking fires? It's easy to get distracted - the phone rings, someone's at the door or a TV show catches your attention. If you need to leave your cooking, even for a couple of minutes:



- turn down the heat
- set the timer
- or ask someone to watch it for you

Or you could find that Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service firefighters join you for dinner!  
Find out more at: [www.365alive.co.uk/cooking](http://www.365alive.co.uk/cooking)

**ABCD Film Society**

Thursday screenings this month



ABCD Film Society's December films. Come to any screening for £6 (£3 full-time school and college students) or join until Christmas or Easter. Email or phone us for a free copy of our 2018/9 programme booklet.

**Dec 6 MADAME DE...** truly one of the classics of French film-making, with two of its greatest stars – Danielle Darrieux and Charles Boyer. Darrieux plays a wilful countess in fin-de-siècle Paris who falls in love with an Italian diplomat. She "has never looked more entrancing", wrote Philip French. (France, 1953, 100 mins, Cert U).

**Dec 13 ADAM SIMCOX PRESENTS** Have you ever wondered what students of "film studies" actually study? Adam, who went to St. Alfreds in Wantage, is a second year student of the discipline at the University of Kent who will give us his personal account of what "film studies" means. Including some clips of his favourite films.

**Dec 20 THE APARTMENT** Guardian film editor Andrew Pulver's favourite Christmas film: "Billy Wilder's 1960 classic comes complete with a festive office party, booze-fuelled flirtations and the liberation that comes with finding love". All that - and with Jack Lemmon and Shirley MacLaine, too. Preceded by our cheese buffet to celebrate the season from 7.15pm – film will start at about 8pm. (US, 125 mins, 1960, Cert PG).

All screenings at 7.45pm at Abingdon Health & Wellbeing Centre, Audlett Drive, OX14 3GD unless otherwise indicated. Adjacent free parking. Have a hot drink before the film – donation requested. [www.abfilms.org.uk](http://www.abfilms.org.uk) or [info@abfilms.org.uk](mailto:info@abfilms.org.uk) or 01235 521976  
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**ADVICE FOR DOG OWNERS**

We have recently seen an increase in reports of dog attacks. We would like to remind dog owners to take reasonable steps to keep your dog under control by considering the following:

- Consider keeping your dog on a lead in public places
- Ensure your dog is comfortable off a lead and will respond to your recall
- Use a muzzle if you are concerned about your dog in public
- Keep your dog on a lead when near livestock

See advice from the local Vet Surgery if you have any concerns  
It is your responsibility to ensure that your dog is under control at all times.

Your dog must be wearing a collar with an identity tag that has the owners name and address on it - just a telephone number is not enough.

For more information on this issue and ways to report crime, please visit the Thames Valley Police website.



**DIABETES AT CHRISTMAS**

As preparations and excitement for Christmas grows, we recognise that it can be a difficult time for people who have Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes, especially if it is their first Christmas with the condition. It can be a time of temptation, unpredictable or delayed meals, extra nibbles, excitement and stress, all of which can make managing their diabetes more of a problem.

We have just published our December Newsletter and a new booklet, 'Diabetes at Christmas' to help families who live with the condition. It gives various options for Christmas dinners, a recipe for homemade, lower carbohydrate and calorie Christmas pudding and many other tips. We also have a booklet, 'Diabetes – Everyday Eating' and we hope that the Newsletter and two booklets will help to make life easier over the festive season.

We are happy to send out these, free of charge, to anyone, just contact IDDT on 01604 622837 or email [enquiries@iddtinternational.org](mailto:enquiries@iddtinternational.org)  
Jenny Hirst, Co-Chair, InDependent Diabetes Trust [IDDT]  
PO Box 294, Northampton NN1 4XS

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

**Thursday 6th December**  
**The Dylan Project**  
[www.dylanproject.co.uk](http://www.dylanproject.co.uk)  
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Online: [musicattheunicorn.org.uk](http://musicattheunicorn.org.uk)  
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To book contact Phillipa Stacey 07977460919  
[featheredglass@yahoo.com](mailto:featheredglass@yahoo.com)  
 Pear Tree Cottage, 7 Packhorse Lane,  
 Marcham OX13 6NT

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**ED VAIZEY WRITES...**

A number of new measures were announced in the budget last month. One I know will be very popular is £420m to fix potholes in England. A £28.8 billion National Roads Fund, paid for by road tax, is also being set up, the largest ever of its kind. Overall this Budget marked a turning point in public finances. Since 2009-2010 the deficit has fallen by four-fifths, from 9.9% to 1.9%.



On average, spending on public services will grow 1.2% above inflation a year from next year until 2023-24. This is all brilliant news and I am very pleased that our efforts to combat the deficit over the last eight years are showing results.

Once again UTC Oxfordshire in Didcot is proving itself a trailblazer for secondary schools in the UK. Last month they officially opened a state-of-the-art cryogenics laboratory, in what's believed to be a first for a UK school. Ahead of the first set of projects in November, students will visit the world-facilities of the Science and Technology Facilities Council – based at Harwell Campus – to find out more about the benefits of and uses for cryogenics.

Congratulations to all those involved in organising the excellent Wantage Literary Festival last month. From talks on history, politics and sport to comedy and gardening tips the festival was by all accounts a great success. I was very pleased to host Sir Oliver Letwin MP for a wide ranging evening covering British politics from Thatcher to May. Thank you to all who came and asked questions.

It was a great pleasure to open the new headquarters of Oxford Immunotec this month. Based in Milton Park and set up here as a start up in 2004, the company is now worth \$450m and is helping fight TB. I was also pleased to visit EMS Physio in Grove and see the progress on Grove Business Park..

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

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**COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

**Neighbourhood Plans** (NP) are the province of District Councils. However, County Councils become heavily involved over roads, schools and other infrastructure. I have been asked to write an article on NP to clarify the pros and cons, so the Expressway will have to wait until next month. I was heavily involved as a District Councillor in Drayton's NP from the outset and watched its progress, its achievements and its mistakes (as the first such plan in the Vale there were plenty of those).

More than 5 years ago, Drayton residents attended a public meeting and saw maps of Drayton between 1720 and 2010 as evidence of inexorable growth. "Can we/should we stop such growth?" they were asked. Most thought we could not and should not and, after some persuasion, accepted that Neighbourhood Plans were not about stopping growth. So what is the point of them? For many years, where houses were built was wholly the concern of distant planning "experts" with an overarching strategic view, who had little understanding or knowledge of any one village or town. Local people were not trusted to be part of the decision making process as "they never want more houses". NPs were an attempt to build local knowledge of how a community functions into the decision-making process. This, it was hoped would take some of

the acrimony out of the planning process. The Drayton NP strapline was "Our chance to plan our future". So what has it achieved? By sitting down with VWHDC and OCC Planners, with landowners, developers and residents, everyone began to see that there were some potential gains for all. The planning system would run more smoothly – less anger and frustration and, if done properly, it could result in better connected communities with decent infrastructure, and decent housing.

Drayton would get decent sports facilities, an improved village hall, a purpose built pre-school, and road improvements. Drayton would change from a village that everyone drove through (and no-one noticed) into a place that people wanted to live and feel part of one community. £2m+ of infrastructure was negotiated with landowners and developers. The appearance of the new houses would complement the old. And looking forward, the Drayton NP would run until 2031 with opportunities for new speculative development being drastically reduced because local people would have already decided where development should take place.

Of course, it has not all run smoothly. It took some time to convince Drayton residents that for the first time they had some power. Even now, there is some resistance from the authorities to being asked to give up some of their power and make room for local knowledge. In the current nationwide building frenzy, there is no doubt that some developer/builders have ignored planning conditions and been remarkably disinterested in the feelings of new residents. Some houses have been poorly built. A few last-minute, very cheeky but small additional housing developments have been allowed. (mistakenly in my view). However, the overwhelming aims and aspirations of the Drayton NP have been, or are being achieved.

**And what does the Drayton experience have to do with Marcham?**

Marcham has naturally been pre-occupied in recent years with the Anson Field project, the new Village Hall and Sports facilities, but meanwhile it has been subject to endless speculative development over recent years. I have no doubt the village itself could have planned things better had it had a say via a Neighbourhood Plan. Marcham's problem is that it is surrounded by developable land in all directions. For the life of the emerging Local Plan (up to 2031), the likely development has now been determined. However, I have no doubt that after 2031, Marcham will once again be under great pressure to grow. A Neighbourhood Plan will not stop the growth, but it will give residents the opportunity to have a say in how it develops at the same time as capturing a maximum amount of infrastructure money in the process..

Richard Webber Cllr OCC SC & Marcham Division.  
[Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com](mailto:Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com) or 01235 534001

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

**Is Oxfordshire beginning to get very tired of all that is being thrown at it? Should we demand more consultation in major decisions?**

The letter from residents of Garsington calling for support for their petition is published on page 19. It might be argued that with the very real possibility that an Expressway might be built through the middle of their patch they are bound to be unhappy, but it has little interest for the rest of us. However, there are issues here which will affect every Oxfordshire resident for years to come. There may be some uncertainty over the housing figures (how many of those in Local Plans have already been built, for example?), but that Oxfordshire is being asked to build an inordinate number of extra houses in a very short time cannot be denied.

The Growth Board is a strikingly opaque group comprising Council Leaders and business representatives. They themselves are aware of this, and, after two years of public agitating, have finally agreed

*continued on page 19*

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# THINGS TO DO

## St. Andrew's Hagbourne CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



DECEMBER 8<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> 2018

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## Christmas Tree Festival

4th-8th December, 10-4

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Be part of our memorial tree and add your ornament  
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Christmas only £2.00 per decoration all profits to Late Spring

Between 1-3 pm we have the following activities  
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Tuesday Age UK The Big Knit (collect your free patterns)

Wednesday Christmas card making

Thursday Staying well this winter roadshow

Friday Wreath making

Saturday Christmas Carols

For further details please call 01235 520463 or email  
[tracydesmond@carmsaxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:tracydesmond@carmsaxfordshire.org.uk)

Free admission

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Saturday 8th at 2.45pm

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## Carols at the Crown



Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm

Wantage & Grove  
Lions are holding a  
grand cash Christmas  
bingo on Saturday  
December 8th  
at Grove Village Hall



Doors open 6.45pm,  
eyes down 7.30pm  
great raffle & refreshments  
*hope to see you there*



## GROVE VILLAGE HALL

### DEC. 15TH & JAN 5TH

## "THE LORELEI"

BOOK ON LINE AT: [www.pocket-pop-up-cinema.net](http://www.pocket-pop-up-cinema.net)

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A film by Moj Smith



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continued from page 17

to have a Scrutiny Committee (involving elected politicians of all parties). Provided that the committee is given full access to the minutes of all meetings and to the decision-making process, this will be a much-needed improvement. So far, decisions have been made behind closed doors by a Board of people – many of whom are not elected. There has been little or no consultation with the public while major decisions are being made. The Garsington petition is the tip of the iceberg. Oxfordshire residents are increasingly concerned by what is being planned for them via the Expressway, the Growth Deal, the Reservoir and so on. Some very thin and inadequate justifications have been given for all these decisions. Oxfordshire residents are reasonably asking such questions as:

Why do we need to build even more houses and encourage an even faster rate of economic growth in an area which is already thriving? Surely other parts of the country need the houses and jobs more than we do.

Why are we so obsessed with roads? There is plenty of evidence to show that building more roads simply generates more traffic congestion. Why not spend the money on better public transport – particularly rail – and better facilities to encourage cycling and walking.

How will the owners of the 1m homes along the whole of the Expressway, who are needed to pay for the Expressway, access it? Remember, an Expressway is a road deliberately designed to allow minimum access points along it.

Why are Oxfordshire residents not trusted with all the information? You cannot expect intelligent people (Oxfordshire is not short of them) simply to accept all this, when you have not made the case for need – need for an Expressway, need for thousands more houses, need for a Reservoir.

All of us need to be calling for more openness and more transparency. I would encourage all Marcham residents to read and consider signing the Garsington petition.

**Happy Christmas**

Catherine Webber Cllr VWHDC

01235 534001 or Webbercatherine1@gmail.com

PS. Look out for your Christmas gift of a recycling wheel - an ingenious way of highlighting where to put different waste products, including different types of plastic



**LETTER FROM GARSINGTON RESIDENTS: THE OXFORD - CAMBRIDGE EXPRESSWAY**

**Do you want 100,000 new houses and a new motorway in our Oxfordshire landscape ?**

**Your District Councils think you do**

Our local authorities want to build 100,000 new homes in Oxfordshire by 2031 - there are currently 268,000. This represents a massive 40% increase.

The Sept 18 report by the Office of National Statistics shows we only need 23,000 new homes in the county by 2031 to support anticipated organic population growth.

A plan to substantially increase the population of Oxfordshire is being developed by a committee called The Oxfordshire Growth Board, which comprises all District Councils and the City Council, with the aim of delivering enhanced economic growth. This is a choice and is NOT necessary for the residents of Oxfordshire to continue to prosper within the boundaries of the existing landscape and organic population growth. We already have a successful local economy.

The impact of this plan will be :

- o Replacement of our countryside with an urban sprawl of houses, business parks and new roads.
- o Increased traffic congestion, associated air pollution and noise.
- o Further pressure on already stretched public services including schools, hospitals, GP's & social care.
- o Loss of wildlife habitats.
- o Increased flood risks.
- o Potential for Infrastructure to fail - eg, water supplies, sewage systems, roads.
- o Constant building disruption for years.

The impacts will be even greater if the government plan to transform the Oxford to Cambridge corridor goes ahead as it has the aspiration for a million new homes.

If, like us, you don't want this, please sign this petition

<https://www.change.org/p/oxfordshire-growth-board-rethink-oxfordshire-s-economic-growth-plan>

...and write to your District and County Councillors asking them to withdraw their support from The Oxfordshire Growth Board.

Please share the above information urgently with your network to garner as much support as possible.

To learn more:

Visit the Oxfordshire Growth Board website [www.oxfordshiregrowthboard.org/](http://www.oxfordshiregrowthboard.org/)

Read this article <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/aug/22/project-britain-debate-oxford-cambridge-expressway>

If you want to get involved please contact us at

[ROEGP@outlook.com](mailto:ROEGP@outlook.com)

**Ian Ashley, Martin Kelly, Adrian Townsend, Residents of Garsington, Oxfordshire, October 2018**

**Free Parking for Christmas Shopping**  
 Drivers will be able to park without paying for a ticket in South and Vale car parks on the following days up to 24 December:

**South Oxfordshire**

- Didcot – Mondays from 3 December
- Goring – Saturdays from 1 December
- Henley – Tuesdays from 4 December
- Thame – Saturdays from 1 December
- Wallingford -Thursdays from 6 December

**Vale of White Horse**

- Abingdon – Saturdays from 1 December
- Faringdon – Saturdays from 1 December
- Wantage – Fridays from 30 November

On the above days there's no need to display a ticket.

# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

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

## Christmas Programme

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December 9.30am-12.30pm – Christmas Craft Morning

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 3-5pm - Café Christmas Tea

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 5.30pm – Christmas Family Friday Event

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30pm - Carols at the Crown

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December, 4-6pm – Carol Singing round the village

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December – School Carol Service

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 10am – Communion and Carols

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 3pm – Garford Carol Service

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 6pm – Carols by Candlelight**

**Christmas Eve, 4pm – Crib Service**

**Christmas Eve, 11pm – Midnight Communion**

**Christmas Day, 10am – Christmas Family Service**

Christmas Day, 10.30am – St. Luke's Christmas Day Service



Dear Friends,

*"As we prepare for Christmas, let us avoid being distracted by the "commercial" or "cultural" Christmas around us and focus on the one thing Christmas is really about—the Incarnation of the Son of God." C.S. Lewis*

As the festive season gets underway once again, those words from C.S. Lewis still sound an important caution. It is all too easy to allow the "commercial" or "cultural" pressures of the hype that fills our TVs, superstores, and the pressures of a 'must have' society, to crowd out, or drown out, that still small voice that points to something deep and profound that lies at the heart of Christmas.

In the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ, God stepped onto this earth. Jesus' coming those years ago continues to impact our world, often in most unexpected, yet life-transforming ways. Two key elements of His message are: life and love. Once, when crowds of people were listening to His talks, He included: "I am the bread of life" ... and "I have come that you might have life, in all its fullness".

Down the centuries, and even in our fast-paced, pressured 21st Century world, people of all cultural backgrounds, and ages, have found, and are finding, that Jesus remains true to His word. He invites us to trust Him, to trust what He says, to discover that God is real, alive, dependable, faithful, and always present, even in the most testing of circumstances.

Behind the life and love offered to us by Christ, is the core message: you matter to God! Hard as this may be to grasp and comprehend, it is wonderfully true. The Incarnation of the Son of God was, in part, to help us realise this 'beating heart' of God. We matter, human life is of the utmost worth, every human being matters to God. And that is why Jesus came - sent, commissioned - to bring this message home to receptive hearts.

This is not simply a 'big picture' message from God, but one that is personal - personal to each of us, from our heavenly Father, a 'heart to heart', and asks for a personal response. I made that personal response, in my case a resounding 'Yes, please', when in my late teens, and whilst life continues to be a roller coaster of a ride, I know the presence and love of Jesus every day, and that He is my companion whatever crosses my life's path. What is your response?

You are warmly invited to share our Advent and Christmas events and services, and celebrate this 'heart to heart' message, brought to this world personally by Christ Himself.

I wish you, and those close to you, a very happy Christmas, and every blessing for 2019.

Richard

**Regular Sunday services** at 10am & 6pm **Youth Drop-in** from 3.30pm on Wednesdays **Wednesday mid-week communion, 10.30am** in Duffield Place Lounge. **Village Cafe**, Wednesdays 12pm at the Baptist Hall **Friday Club**, 5.30-6.30pm at All Saints' Church (primary-age)

## Contacts:

**Rev. Canon Richard Zair** 391319 [vicar@allsaintsmarcham.org](mailto:vicar@allsaintsmarcham.org) **Jill Rowe** Children's and families Minister 390885 [families@allsaintsmarcham.org](mailto:families@allsaintsmarcham.org) **Rosemary Siebert** Associate Priest 07763330113 **Rob Finch** Youth Worker 07888331708, [rob@marchamyouth.org](mailto:rob@marchamyouth.org) **Tamsin Gilbert** Parish Administrator 391319 [info@allsaintsmarcham.org](mailto:info@allsaintsmarcham.org)