

# Marcham & District News

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



APRIL 2019 VOL: 41 NO: 4

READ & RECYCLE! FREE



**FAMILY FRIDAY**  
**GOOD FRIDAY REFLECTIONS**  
 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL - ALL SAINTS' CHURCH - 10am-12pm  
 Refreshments served at 10am, followed by activities for all ages  
 RSVP to Jill if you can come, so we can ensure we have enough refreshments etc, 07811 165351  
[families@allsaintsmarcham.org](mailto:families@allsaintsmarcham.org)

▲ Marcham Pre-School see page 9

### Easter Holidays Waste Collection Change

~~Wednesday 24 April~~

**Thursday 25 April**

**Recycling and Food Waste (NOT Garden)**



## Happy Easter



▲ Progress on the Anson Field see page 13



## Diary for April

4 Thu	ABCD Film: In The Fade, Abingdon 19.45	15
5-7	Lady of Legend Weekend, Didcot Railway Centre	2
9 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00-15.30	9
9 Tue	Marcham Society, Adrienne Rosen, Chipping Norton, All Saint's Church, 19.30	7
10 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3
11 Thu	Midweek Walk, The Tandem, Kennington 12.30 lunch / 13.30 walk	7
11 Thu	Gospel of Mark Live, All Saints' Church, 19.00	20
11 Thu	Gardening Club, Sunningwell Village Hall, 19.30	19
12 Fri	Deadline for Registering to Vote	3
14 Sun	Bike Marking with PCSOs, Market Square, Abingdon, 09.00-15.00	19
17 Wed	Arts Society Abingdon, Trinity Church, Abingdon, 10.30 & 14.00	
18 Thu	Marcham WI: Denman College, 19.30	7
19-22	Steam Days, Didcot Railway Centre	2

19 Fri	Good Friday Reflections, All Saints' Church, 10.00-12.00	1
20 Sat	Deadline for next MADNews, 17.00 <a href="mailto:editor@madnews.co.uk">editor@madnews.co.uk</a>	
21 Sun	Easter Eggstravaganza, Weston Manor Hotel, 11.00-16.00	2
23 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00-15.30	9
24 Wed	Frilford Parish AGM, Abingdon Prep School, 19.00-21.00	3
27 Sat	Sing the BeeGees with Jo Sercombe, WADS, 10.00-16.00	15
27 Sat	Portuguese Cookery, Denman College	2
30 Tue	GARD AGM, Steventon Village Hall, 19.30	11
28 Sun	Plant Sale, Priory Lane, Marcham 14.00-17.30	7
28 Sun	St George's Day Service, All Saints' Church, 16.00-17.00	20

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

# THINGS TO DO



## 20TH ABINGDON AIR & COUNTRY SHOW

SUNDAY 5TH MAY 2019

Car Parks entry from 8am

Showground opens at 10am

Show closes 5:30pm

Airfield closes 7:00pm

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Children (5-15) £5 in advance and on the gate  
Children under 5 free

Advance tickets are available from the show website (address at the bottom).

**Limited Advance tickets available from these outlets below from 1st March.**

Newbury Building Society, Abingdon, OX14 5BL  
Witney Visitor & Information Centre, OX28 6JH  
Wantage Vale & Downland Museum, OX12 8BL

Find us on Facebook & Twitter  
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## DIDCOT RAILWAY CENTRE



### Lady of Legend Weekend

Friday, Saturday and Sunday  
5th – 7th April

Our Easter Weekend Steam Days will start on Friday 19th April and continue throughout the weekend – Sat 20th, Sun 21st and Mon 22nd

To book go to [didcotrailwaycentre.org.uk](http://didcotrailwaycentre.org.uk)



The Arts Society Abingdon (ex ADFAS) is holding its monthly lecture on **Wednesday 17th April, 10.30am and 2.00pm**, at Trinity Church, Conduit Road, Abingdon, OX14 1DB.

### Goldwork: The Story of Britain and Gold

by Helen Clifford

The allure of gold has captured human imagination and inspired legends throughout history - it remains an icon of enduring wealth and a symbol of power. Yet the role of Britain has often been obscured, from its position as a trading nation, to gold rushes and craftsmanship. Based on a major exhibition in 2012, this lecture explores these themes and seeks to gain a local understanding of the role and history of gold.

Non-Members welcome, £6.00 including coffee/tea. The lectures are one hour long, but leave extra time for announcements etc.

**For more information on future lectures and other activities see [www.theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk](http://www.theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk) or email [info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk](mailto:info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk)**

## ISIS Chamber Orchestra

### Bach and Sons

Date: Saturday 18th May 2019, 7.30pm

Venue: All Saints Church, Marcham

Conductor: Paul Cox

'Cello: Laurens Price-Novak

Baritone: Christian Bradley

Music:

JS Bach – Cantata 'Ich habe genug'

CPE Bach – Symphony in Eb

CPE Bach – 'Cello Concerto in A major

JC Bach – Symphony Op. 6 No. 6 in G minor

Tickets: Marcham Post Office, on the door, or call 01235 820874

£12 for adults, £10 for concessions, and free for under 16s.

**£2 of every ticket will go to support**

**Hanna's Orphanage in Ethiopia**

**Refreshments, nibbles AND a raffle with lots of prizes!**



### The Manor Easter Eggstravaganza

Sunday 21st April 2019  
11am – 4pm

The Manor Country House Hotel  
Weston on the Green near Bicester OX25 3QL

For more information Tel 0777 1967633 [www.themanorweston.com](http://www.themanorweston.com)



## DENMAN

We've got family friendly events & day courses - spend some quality time with your little ones and learn something new!



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Portuguese Cookery - Saturday 27 April  
From £90 (1 adult + 1 child)

Crocodiles of the World - Monday 29 July  
£10



[www.denman.org.uk](http://www.denman.org.uk)  
01865 391 991  
[info@denman.org.uk](mailto:info@denman.org.uk)

Dear Readers

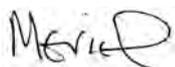
This month we celebrate **St George**. Apart from England, he is also the patron saint of many other places and organisations including The Scouts:

*“Prepared and alert a Scout follows the lead Of our Patron Saint George and his spirited steed.”* Baden-Powell in “Scouting for Boys”

*We haven't had many letters to the editor recently – email to editor@madnews.co.uk, pop a letter in the envelope in the PO or through my door before 20th of the month.*

Until next time

**PUBLISHER / EDITOR**



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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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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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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**

**Local Council Elections - 2nd May, 2019**

**Candidates** Anyone wishing to stand as a candidate in the local elections has until 4.00 p.m. on Wednesday 3rd April to submit a nomination form to the Vale of White Horse District Council. The forms need to be returned by hand, and not posted. It is advisable to make an appointment in advance, before you visit the offices, by telephoning 01235 422528. The forms can be obtained via the Electoral Commission's website <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk>. Assistance can be obtained from the Vale of White Horse District Council's elections office or from the Parish Clerk.

**Voter registration** To vote on 2 May, residents need to be registered by Friday 12 April. Anyone who isn't registered at their current address should visit [gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://gov.uk/register-to-vote) to ensure they are eligible to vote.

**Polling cards** Those who registered to vote by 8 March 2019 should receive their poll card by Monday 8 April – anyone who doesn't receive it by this date should call the Elections team on 01235 422528 to make sure they are registered. Anybody who registers to vote between 9 March and the cut-off date of 12 April should receive their poll cards during the week commencing Monday 15 April.

**Postal votes** If someone wishes to vote by post, the Elections team must receive their application by 5pm on Monday 15 April – application forms are available at [whitehorsedc.gov.uk/elections](http://whitehorsedc.gov.uk/elections).

Everybody who applies for a postal vote should receive their ballot pack by Friday 26 April – if it doesn't arrive by this date postal voters should contact the Elections team on 01235 422528 to request a replacement.

**New Play Facilities**

It is recognised that the play equipment which is in the Anson Field is a few years old, and perhaps some of the items have seen better days. During the planning of the new community hall, a priority order needed to be established, so it was not prudent to focus on the play facilities first. Now things with the hall are much more advanced, the Parish Council has set up a working party to look into play provision within the parish, to assess the open spaces and to see what might be needed by way of play equipment and to investigate what might be possible. The working party, whilst including members of the Council, may also include members of the public and/or stakeholders who have a particular link to or an interest in play provision. So if you are interested in joining, or would like further information then please contact the Clerk by the end of April.

**Annual Meeting of Electors**

The Annual Meeting of Electors will take place on **Wednesday 15th May at 7.30p.m.** at Marcham Primary School. All electors of the parish are entitled to attend

and ask questions or raise issues affecting the parish. Mr. Chris Brotherton, from Thomas Homes, the construction company building the new community facilities, has agreed to be the guest speaker and will be providing an update on what is happening in the Anson Field.

**Planning applications**

The Council has considered the following applications:

**P19/V0400/HH** Construction of tennis court at Pinetops, Woodside. The Council had no objections provided there was adequate drainage and there would be no water run off problems.

**P19/V0464/HH** Demolish side garage and build new single storey extension to front and rear, with double side extension and single storey to rear at 21 Fettiplace Road. The Council objected as the building works created more bedrooms and there was a requirement for more on site car parking, the buildings were overshadowing the adjacent property and were dominant on a side window. As there was a sloping front garden, there would be the potential for water run off from the front extension. The Council also requested a condition to ensure that the extension was ancillary to the main dwelling, and not for business use.

**R3.0008/19 s.73** Application to continue the development of the retention of a temporary portakabin classroom building at Marcham Primary School. The council had no objections.

**Date of Next Council Meeting:**

Wednesday 10th April 2019 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](mailto:clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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

**FRILFORD NOTICES**

**Frilford Parish 2019 AGM will be held at Abingdon Prep School on Wednesday 24th April, 7pm-9pm**

If you would like to be added to the parish email distribution list, send a message to [frilfordparish@gmail.com](mailto:frilfordparish@gmail.com)

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# MARCHAM AND DISTRICT NEWS is 40!

Another few snaps and snippets from the past. If you have anything that you would like to share with other readers, just send it to editor@madnews.co.uk to include in our 40 year round up.

## MARCHAM WI – Easter 2005

Members then had fun creating their own decorated egg. Christine brought her extensive collection (which rivals Fabergé eggs) for us to enjoy. An amusing array of egg cups and cosies, some vintage, were displayed by members.



## FANTASTIC FOOTBALLERS

This report has been compiled by two players, GUY GILES and DAVID MARSH

The Marcham School Football Team played in Drayton on Wednesday 17 march in the final of the Small Schools 7 Aside Competition. By half time it was 2:1, a close-fought

game. In the second half, Marcham came out brilliantly, scoring two goals in the first minute. It finished with a final score of 7:2, with Jack Everley, the captain, lifting the cup victoriously.

This really was a fantastic match to watch, with all the players working as a team, showing good sporting behaviour and some fantastic passes. I would like to thank Chris Ricketts, aided by Maria Coates, for their tireless coaching and support for all our footballers.



Marcham Primary School's Champion Football Team!  
back row (left to right): Joe Richardson David Marsh Tom Tierney Jack Everley (cpt) Guy Giles  
front row: Daisy Turney Jamie Coates Henry Osborne Christopher Busson

## ▲ April 2004 Fantastic Footballers from Marcham School

## MAD event for your diaries – don't miss it!

Marcham Community Group and the local church community are jointly planning a Great Marcham & District Weekend on 27th-29th September 2019.

This will raise much-needed funds to fit out the new Community Facilities. It will also mark Harvest Festival and celebrate 10 years of Marcham Moldova Lifeline with some funds going to projects in one of Europe's poorest countries.

Plans are firming up and local organisations are taking on fund-raising activities involving as many local people as possible in Marcham, Frilford and Garford.

### More details in future MADNews issues.

To get involved or suggest ideas, please contact jim.asher@btinternet.com (391727) or neil.rose.nsch@gmail.com (391168)

### Events will include:

- Sunflower-growing competition
- Flower, vegetables and produce show (start planting up your seeds now!)
- Dog show
- Vintage/classic car rally
- Treasure hunt on foot
- Gala dinner
- Harvest Festival BBQ
- Teddy Bears' Picnic
- Historic walks and church tours
- Smart phone film competition
- Apple Day/juicing events
- Quiz night
- Pub games contests
- Fun run and family sports
- Archaeology exhibition
- Art and sculpture exhibitions
- Tea, cakes and ice cream



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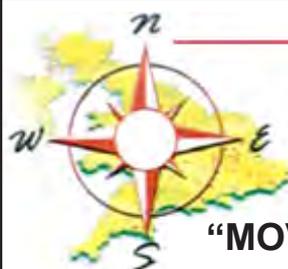
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**MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK:**

**Thursday, April 11th**

For this month's walk we will eat at The Tandem Inn (Map Ref SP524024), 193 Kennington Road, Kennington (OX1 5PG) at 12.30pm for lunch, starting the walk of about 4 miles at 1.30. We will be walking along the Thames to Sandford Lock and then back through the woods and Little London.

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 - especially if the Thames is in flood! Members free, non-members £1. We always welcome new walkers.



**MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB NEWS**

The season is not too far away now, with arrangements finalised for the relocation to other grounds for 2019. This being necessary whilst the new facilities are being built.

The first team are to use Clifton Hampden's ground, with the second team playing at Freeland. We are very fortunate to find two clubs that are so helpful and very accommodating, appreciating the difficulty we find ourselves in. Saturday league matches commence the first week in May and continue until the middle of September. This year will see us focussing only on Saturday fixtures, though we are hoping to expand our fixtures once we are using the new facilities. Exciting times ahead for the club once this materialises.

Meanwhile `nets` are continuing in April at Radley School from 7.30pm – 9.00pm on Fridays 12th and 26th. All potential new players welcome, irrespective of ability or age. We have some new members who have not played much and we have an age range from 13-66! Will leave you to work out who the `elder statesman` is! For `nets` information contact **Chris Webb** at [chris.webb32@hotmail.com](mailto:chris.webb32@hotmail.com) and all other club information to **Trevor Hill** at [trevor3chancel@aol.com](mailto:trevor3chancel@aol.com)

*We look forward to meeting any of you who may be interested in playing in our two Saturday teams.*



**Plant Sale & Tea in the Garden**  
**Sunday April 28th 2-5.30 pm**  
**Prior's Corner, Priory Lane**



**In aid of the new village facilities**

**Do you have spare time, a car and friendly personality?**



If so, how about becoming a volunteer driver? We need drivers to take people to hospitals, clinics and local doctors for appointments. We are flexible with the days that

you are available. A mileage allowance is paid currently at 45p per mile. To contact the Volunteer Centre call 01235 522438 between 10 and 1230 on weekdays or pop in to 35 Ock Street, at Abingdon Baptist Church on the first floor and introduce yourself.

**Marcham WI**

**Date:** Thursday, 18th April  
**Time:** 7.30pm  
**Venue:** Denman College  
**Topic:** Brush Strokes



Have you ever wanted to paint? Well, now is your chance to release your inner artist and leave with your very own masterpiece! No experience is needed as step by step instructions will be given. For members the cost of materials will be covered, but we'll be asking for a contribution of £4 for any visitors that would like to come along.

*New members and visitors are always welcome*

*For further information, please contact:*

*Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 [pippahoath@gmail.com](mailto:pippahoath@gmail.com)*



*The Marcham Society*

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

**The Making of Chipping Norton: History & Buildings 1150-1750**

*Adrienne Rosen*

Adrienne has a longstanding interest in the history of towns and founded the Chipping Norton Historical Research Group which continues to investigate the history of the town and its hinterland in north-west Oxfordshire. In 2017 she published (with Janice Cliffe) *The Making of Chipping Norton: A Guide to its Buildings and History to 1750* (The History Press), based on a project funded by Historic England to investigate the surviving early buildings and their fabric.

*All Saints' Church, Marcham*

*7.30 pm Tuesday 9th April*

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

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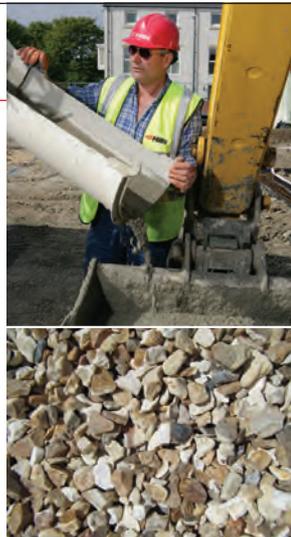
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**MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL**  
 It's been a very busy month! We've explored the Moldovan celebration of Martisor, made pancakes and held pancake races, we've had breakfast at pre-school and celebrated World Book Day, we've drawn pictures of, and pictures with daffodils for St. David's Day and we've had a number of trips by bus, including a visit to Ock Street Dental Clinic supporting our topic on teeth! All in all, we've had a great time - and continue to provide a varied and engaging experience for all the children. We are now full for September 2019, however if you would like to join our waiting list, please do get in touch at [marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk) or by phoning 01865 392101.

**Nicky Sanford,**  
 Early Years Teacher, Marcham Pre-School  
 01865 392101 [marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk)  
[www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com](http://www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com)



**Marcham Parish Council  
 10 Vacancies for councillors  
 Elections take place Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

To be eligible to apply to be a councillor you need to be over 18, preferably a resident of Marcham, on the electoral roll (although exceptions do apply), able to attend evening meetings, and above all **interested in local issues and matters that affect Marcham.**

See the note in the Parish Council's article on page 3 for further information

**NEWS FROM LITTLE ANGELS**

**Baby Room** Our Babies have been enjoying getting out in the garden this month in the dry weather! Emptying and filling buckets of sand in the mud kitchen and splashing in the water tray. They have also been enjoying lots of holistic play with the wooden sensory baskets filled with different materials and wooden shapes, building towers banging blocks together and exploring their senses.

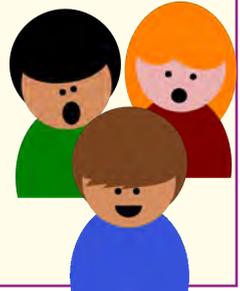
**Preschool Room** We have welcomed new children into our little angels family this month, they have settled really well. Our preschool children now enjoy their French session every Friday taught by one of our fluent French speaking parents. She teaches the children simple words such as colours, numbers and animals. The children love this session and are learning so quickly!



**SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!**  
 Tuesday 9th and Tuesday 23rd April  
 From 2 – 3.30pm in the residents' lounge at Duffield Place

- Sing a wide range of popular songs
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Phone 391270 for more details  
 Christine Whild



**Are you looking for a reliable baby-sitter?**  
 My name is Flora Mitchell, I am 16, live in Frilford and attend St Helen & St Katharine School in Abingdon. I have had lots of babysitting experience with children of ages 5-13 including a week's overnight babysitting. Next summer I am going on a charity-based expedition to Swaziland to build a schoolroom for children there and to do this I need to raise money for my expedition.  
 References available  
 Mobile: is 07710 984902

**Exciting News**  
 We are excited to announce we have been shortlisted for 'Family Business of the Year' at the FSB Celebrating Small Business Awards. We are all looking forward to attending the awards ceremony. We are delighted to announce the foundations for our new purpose built nursery have been put down. Watching our new nursery being built brings us so much excitement. Our recruitment day was a success, we met lots of inspiring childcare professionals who we are excited to join our ever-growing little angels family! Three families have now secured their place for their little angel in the new building in January **SECURE YOUR PLACE NOW**

**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**

**St John Ambulance Cadets**  
 We recently held an enrolment evening when our first ever batch of Marcham Cadets were *sworn in*. We have been practising CPR on one of the new dummies provided through a **Parish Council grant**. We can track our progress on a screen to make sure we are performing it correctly. We would like to extend our thanks to the council for the grant.

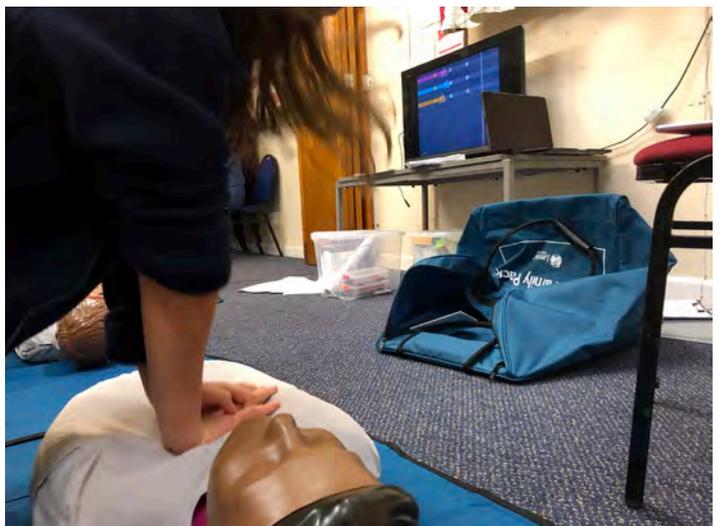
If you would like to join the Cadets or find out more about St John Ambulance contact Rob Finch [rob.finch@sja.org.uk](mailto:rob.finch@sja.org.uk)



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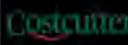
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**GARD**

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<http://www.abingdonreservoir.org.uk/>

Report from GARD - March-April 2019

Affinity Water publish their plan for consultation – partnership on reservoir with Thames Water is 'preferred option'



Affinity Water published their revised draft Water Resources Management Plan 2019-2024 (known as rdWRMP19) on 1st March. The consultation on this plan runs until 26th April.

As expected, Affinity confirm that their 'preferred plan' is to partner Thames Water in constructing the 'mega-reservoir' next to our villages. They would take an approximately 1/3 share, and the plan proposes to start in 2025, and have the reservoir ready by 2037-8.

Affinity have no better case for needing the water from this reservoir than Thames Water have. By their own admission, they have other possible sources of supply (water transfers to their Hertfordshire customers either from the Anglian Water network, or from Severn-Trent Water via the Grand Union canal from the River Trent). These water sources would be available earlier than the reservoir. Affinity have chosen to prefer the reservoir first, for the same cynical reasons as Thames: to build up a huge water surplus in the 2040s and 2050s that they can sell-on by 'transfer' to other water companies in the South-east. The analysis by GARD shows that the requirements of Affinity can be met by very simple and cheap schemes and improving leakage (sounds familiar?), until at least the 2060s.

GARD will be responding to Affinity, and making a very strong objection. CPRE Oxon have already come out against this and we hope to co-ordinate our response with local organisations. We urge all residents to make a strong response objecting to this and re-iterating our call for a Public Inquiry before this plan is accepted. You can find out about the plan at <https://stakeholder.affinitywater.co.uk/water-resources.aspx> Affinity have said they are keen to engage with our local concerns and hear them, but so far they have only invited GARD along to the Stakeholders' meeting on 11th April. We hope to press for greater Oxfordshire organisations participation.

We should make sure the Oxfordshire voice is heard by this Hertfordshire water company. The local individual objections to Thames Water's plan made up one third of all individual responses sent in. We must try and dominate the Affinity consultation in the same way. Please copy your responses to me at [gard.chair@gmail.com](mailto:gard.chair@gmail.com), and to local County and District councillors and to our MP, Ed Vaizey.

Ofwat slam Thames Water and Affinity Water business plans – put them 'in the slow lane' for approval.

As was widely reported in the press, Ofwat, the water regulator, has issued a damaging report on several water companies' business plans and said they are not fit for purpose. Foremost amongst these are Thames Water and Affinity, who have not received approval to proceed. This affects the prospects of the reservoir being approved. Whilst it is not, in itself, something that would lead to the reservoir plans being taken off the agenda, it is a setback, and GARD, and local political groups, should push hard to take advantage of this. Part of Ofwat's criticism is that they do not believe that these two companies have sound enough finances to take on the huge debts of building a huge reservoir project (or any other grand scheme, it seems).

Also, Ofwat have announced that the companies will be given the ability to raise large sums of money (in some cases over £100M) from customers' bills in order to carry out a proper study of the strategic water resource options for the South-east. This includes proper comparisons of reservoirs, water transfers from the west, and desalination plants. Whilst GARD has been pressing for many years that such proper studies should be done (Thames Water have been trying to avoid this ever since losing the 2010 Public Inquiry), we are concerned that the amount of money raised should not be a burden to consumers, should

be efficiently and appropriately spent, and should be subject to proper public scrutiny at the end. We are not clear that this is the case, and we have a meeting with Ofwat in London on 3rd April, where we will be asking many questions. We will keep everyone informed.

**GARD Annual General Meeting**

The GARD AGM will be held on Tuesday 30th April at 7.30pm in the Millennium Room of Steventon Village Hall. The meeting will include an update on the Reservoir situation, and our discussions with Ofwat. We are always looking for new committee members, so if you would like to join the committee, Our membership has grown considerably, please contact our secretary, Deborah Bennett, at [gard.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:gard.secretary@gmail.com). You can contact me (email [gard.chair@gmail.com](mailto:gard.chair@gmail.com)) or our secretary, Deborah Bennett (email [gard.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:gard.secretary@gmail.com)), if you would like to help, or to join GARD (lifetime membership is only £5). **DEREK STORK**, Hon Chairman, Group Against Reservoir Development

**MILTON HILL BOWLING CLUB**  
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(next to Football Club)

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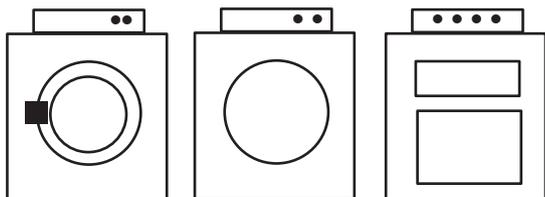


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## MarchamCentre—progress and managing holdups!

Site work to build the new MarchamCentre has been building up nicely, with the nursery slab taking shape (see top photo, from the Morland Road gate) and main site drainage installed and part of the new roadway appearing (lower photo, from the path along the south side—nursery slab in the middle distance).



We were frustrated to hear of a possible delay by SSE for a second time in four months. This time, we were told that disconnecting the electricity supply to the old building could be delayed five weeks. This work is needed to allow demolition of the old building, before ground work on the new Community Hall can start. Following contacts with SSE, they have found a way to do it sooner, so the plan can move ahead again!

In parallel, MCG trustees and committees are working on business plans, operation plans, budgets, details of fitting requirements and fund-raising, including the Great MaD Weekend (see page 5 in this edition), from which MCG will be the main beneficiary, to help fit out the new facilities.

As this project gathers more momentum, you can help by becoming a member of MCG, and/or by making a donation to MCG funds—please call or email for more details. Your support really is important now.

We will continue to keep you updated regularly on progress here. We are putting updates and posts on our MarchamCentre Facebook page and on our website, [www.marchamcentre.org](http://www.marchamcentre.org). We are happy to answer any questions you may have about this important project for our community.

MarchamCentre—progress and managing hold-ups!



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## ABCD Film Society



ABCD Film Society's March films. Admission £6 (£3 full-time school and college students) except March 7 (£7.50 / £3.50). Email or phone us for a free copy of our 2018/9 programme booklet.

4 APRIL In The Fade: Fatih Akin Cert 18

Akin again turns his eye to German-Turkish relations in modern Germany. The film begins with the prison wedding of German Katja (Diane Kruger) and Turkish Nuri, who is serving time for drug-dealing. Fast forward to Hamburg where the rehabilitated Nuri runs a business and the couple have a son, Rocco. One day Nuri and Rocco are murdered in a terrorist attack and Katja's devastation is all-consuming. Katja does not believe the murder has anything to do with their personal history, insisting it was perpetrated by right wing extremists, as is eventually confirmed. A trial ensues.

All screenings at 7.45pm at Abingdon Health & Wellbeing Centre, Audlett Drive, OX14 3GD.

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With the expectation of spring on the way, many of us will be going for walks and working in the garden. People with Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes are no exception to this and these are both excellent ways to be more active and take better control of blood sugar levels. However, people with diabetes do need to take a little more care and unfortunately, we have found that some people with diabetes are not aware that they need to take the extra care of their feet.

Around 130 diabetes-related amputations take place every week in this country alone, mainly as a result of foot ulcers but 80% of these are avoidable with proper foot care. So, people with diabetes should have their feet checked at least annually by a trained healthcare professional and should also be taught how to look after their feet themselves.

To try to reduce the risks of foot damage and amputations, the InDependent Diabetes Trust (IDDT) has published a FREE booklet called 'Diabetes – Looking After Your Feet'. This is designed to help people to know how to look after their feet, what to look for and when to seek treatment to keep their feet healthy and avoid foot ulcers. If foot ulcers are left untreated they can eventually lead to amputation, which drastically changes a person's quality of life.

A more active life in the spring can also mean a change in eating habits, so our booklet, 'Diabetes – Everyday Eating', which contains 28 days of menus of everyday, affordable meals and much more, is also useful to help people manage their diabetes..

We are happy to send you a copy of any of our booklets free of charge. Just contact us on 01604 622837, e-mail jenny@iddtinternational.org or write to IDDT, PO Box 294, Northampton NN1 4XS

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## FLEXICARE COMMUNITY WALK

Does the sound of a lovely walk on and around the Ridgeway, followed by all the (free) cakes and sandwiches you can possibly eat, sound appealing to you? If the answer is "yes", please read on!

Flexicare (a small local charity supporting families with severely disabled children in their own homes, and now in its 34th year) is holding its annual fundraising walk on **Sunday 12th May** from Snells Hall in East Hendred. Booking out is from 9-10am with a choice of a 10 or 5 mile walk, or a 2-3 mile buggy/wheelchair route to choose from. If you would prefer to run any of the routes, please book in at 8am, if we know you are coming to run, we will have bacon butties ready for your return. You can register (free of charge) on [www.flexicare.org](http://www.flexicare.org), where you will find registration and sponsor forms and more information if required.



## DRAYTON SEQUENCE DANCE CLUB

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# FG Feathered Glass

I will be opening my studio for the Artweeks Open Studio event again this year. If you are interested in any of the processes available when working with fused glass just pop along, grab a cuppa and have a mooch and a chat.

The beautiful piece of 'meadow' glass visitors worked on last year is on the wall for you all to see and there will be another project for this year, so pop along and add your bit.

The talented potter Iain Shield is joining me, have a look at his amazing work [www.shieldstudiopottery.com](http://www.shieldstudiopottery.com) and his instagram page [ianwshield](https://www.instagram.com/ianwshield)

We will be open 11, 12, 16, 17, 18 & 19 May 12 noon to 4pm each day. If you can't make it then, get in touch and we will arrange a separate visit.

I am also exhibiting in the Turrill Sculpture Garden, the garden to the rear of the Summertown Library and SJE Arts with 18 other artists. This is a beautiful enclosed cloister and garden. I will be running mini workshops here which you will need to book onto. Details on [www.featheredglass.com](http://www.featheredglass.com) and my featheredglass Facebook page



## Smarter Transport Solutions

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**ED VAIZEY WRITES...**

This month I have met with Ministers in Westminster to discuss two important local issues: Health care and rail links. I met with Andrew Jones the Rail Minister, alongside his officials and Network Rail and Great Western. The Minister and I led discussions focussing on improvements along the Great Western Railway line, the potential for reopening Grove Station as part of a strategic project to develop commuter stations between Oxford and Bristol, and improved connectivity between Heathrow Airport and stations to the west, so one might travel direct to Heathrow from Reading for example rather than having to go into London and then back out to Heathrow. I will be looking at the East West Rail scheme and the Cotswold Line Promotion Group for inspiration in how to build a business case for improvements to commuter services between Oxford and Bristol and hope that colleagues in Parliament with stations along that route might join me.



I also met with Health Minister Caroline Dinenage. Alongside colleagues from Oxfordshire County Council, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Oxford Health and Vale of White Horse District Council the Minister and I led discussions on how we could improve Primary Care provision in the constituency. We discussed the ongoing situation in Wantage as well as our plans to develop new health hubs, both at an improved Health Centre in Wantage and plans for a new health hub in Didcot

In the constituency I have met with a number of residents and local businesses this month, including meeting with GPs in Wantage, The Thames Valley Police Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner, Residents of Alfredston Place in Wantage who are receiving poor service from their managing agent, and a visit to the Environmental Education Centre in Sutton Courtenay hosted by the Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust. I was also delighted to join local charity Mission Motorsport at Royal Hospital Chelsea to celebrate the launch of their new initiative Mission Automotive..

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

[www.vaizey.com](http://www.vaizey.com)

Contact Ed Vaizey MP by	
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Web	<a href="http://www.vaizey.com">www.vaizey.com</a>
News	Sign up at <a href="http://bit.ly/EdVaizeyMP">http://bit.ly/EdVaizeyMP</a>
Tel	01235 768 888

**COUNCILLORS' REPORT**

We have decided to combine forces for this month's articles on an issue that we think is very important for everyone in Marcham and has nothing to do with Brexit or local elections! It is the Thames Water (TW) proposal for a massive, four square miles, above-ground reservoir stretching between Steventon, Drayton, East Hanney and Marcham.

It will be the biggest above ground reservoir in the whole of Europe, and this site has partly been chosen because it is a huge flat area, a third of which is in the flood plain, and has suitable clay soil to keep the water from permeating down. Unlike many other reservoirs, it will not nestle comfortably into a valley and create a beautiful lake with natural hills around it. Instead, huge bunds will have to be built around the area and be at least as high as an electric pylon, to hold the water in. Furthermore, much of the work traffic for this project will access the site via the Marcham/A34 interchange, already a very busy road. Over a million people are predicted to visit the site each year to access the reservoir and its facilities, which means suitable roads, parking spaces etc will have to be factored into an area already very crowded. Clearly, Marcham will be greatly affected by both the building process of the reservoir and its use afterwards.

This proposal is the third such proposal since 1990. The last two were turned down by planning inspectors. TW are now arguing that

the water is needed to supply much of the South East of England, but it will supply little, if any water, to Oxfordshire.

There are 3 parts to the 2018-19 argument.

The first concerns the Science. Is a Reservoir really needed at all? Should TW be accelerating the repair programme of their numerous broken water pipes which are leaking several Olympic size swimming pools each day. The last TW proposal in 2007 was turned down emphatically at a contentious court hearing because the case for need had not been met. So the question is would water transfer or desalination be a cheaper solution to water need? In the end, it is the scientists who must provide an answer - not just TW's own scientists, but also the well-funded and top level scientists from GARD (Group against the Reservoir).

The second concerns the Law – in particular, the planning process which has to answer the questions “Is this the best place for a Reservoir? and "What are the implications for traffic and the environment?"

There is, however, a third issue which is often overlooked and unappreciated. It is the Politics surrounding the whole proposal. And it is the politics which worry us almost more than anything. The way that the legal process works at present is that TW first approaches the regulator OFWAT with its proposal. There is every reason for TW to want a reservoir – they will own it and it will sit on their balance sheet giving them a major capital asset against which they can borrow. It will be paid for by TW ratepayers, as will the cost of all public consultation (glossy brochures etc). At the 2007 TW proposal, OFWAT allowed TW to raise £45m from ratepayers – about half of which was used to pay for legal fees to fight TW's case. When it came to a full legal enquiry, Councils trying to fight the proposal had to club together to raise enough funds to pay for legal representation. They managed to raise less than £1m, which was collected through Oxfordshire residents' council tax.

While water companies own assets that ratepayers pay for, and while legal fees on both sides are paid for by ratepayers and council tax payers, there is little disincentive for water companies to keep trying their luck every few years.

If we look across the channel to France, we understand that the state owns the assets, such as reservoirs, and private companies are employed by the state to run such assets. Is this not a better, fairer, more sensible system?

Both the Vale District Council and the Oxfordshire County Council have voted against this new proposal for a Reservoir, and now it is to be the subject of a public enquiry. So we watch with close interest.

**RICHARD WEBBER** Cllr OCC SC & Marcham Division.

[Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com](mailto:Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com) or 01235 534001

**CATHERINE WEBBER** Cllr VWHDC - DC for Marcham and Shippon  
01235 534001 or [Webbercatherine1@gmail.com](mailto:Webbercatherine1@gmail.com)

*See page 11 for the GARD report*



**Youth Challenge  
Oxfordshire**

**Buttercup Run 2019**  
**a family 5km run & walk - Sunday 19th May**  
**Manor Farm, Eaton, nr Appleton OX13 5PR**

Join us for a beautiful run/walk through undiscovered stunning wildflower meadows, woods, ancient sites and finish along the banks of the River Thames. Everyone welcome - including dogs on leads - to run, walk or simply stroll through the countryside!

Bring a picnic to carry on the fun afterwards and enjoy the stalls and refreshments on offer from the Rotary Club.

**To enter: go to [www.yoco.online/buttercuprun](http://www.yoco.online/buttercuprun)**  
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**Neighbourhood Team Newsletter for Marcham from Rich Osborn**

Please follow us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/tvpsouthandvale](http://www.facebook.com/tvpsouthandvale) and

Twitter @tvpsouthandvale for regular updates from the South and Vale neighbourhood teams. Sign up to our alerts system at [www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk) to receive information related to crime in your area.



**Priority 1 – Burglary**

We received reports of shed breaks in Whitecross and in Norreys Road, Cumnor. Many of the sheds broken into were away from the houses and access was gained via open fields at the rear of the properties. Please think about security. Opportunist thieves identify sheds and garages as easy pickings because they are usually fairly unprotected and lack basic security measures. The buildings often contain property that can be sold on or implements that can be used to force entry into the owner's home. Many people fall short on basic security of their sheds and garages. No thief wants to hang about longer than they have to, so delay the time it will take them to get their hands on your tools!

- Keep your shed/garage in good condition.
- Fit a closed shackle padlock to the door.
- Fittings should be bolted through the door and any screws concealed.
- It is easy to unscrew the ironmongery, steal contents and in some cases replace the screws to make it look as if the shed has not been tampered with.
- By using tamper proof screws or coach bolts, together with a good quality pad bar or hasp and staple and close shackled padlock, the shed owner will make it harder for the would-be thief.
- Bond any window glass in with mastic to prevent easy removal. Fit grilles or mesh to windows to slow down the thief.
- Ensure all equipment and tools are locked away when not in use.
- Install a shed/garage alarm.
- Post-code or mark all property such as lawnmowers, bikes, and tools using ultraviolet pens, forensic marking such as Selecta DNA, SmartWater or engravers.
- Install security lighting as a deterrent, and plants such as thorny shrubs to act as a barrier at potential access points.
- If building a shed, put it where it is most visible to you and neighbours.
- Ensure ladders are locked to a secure fixture in the shed or garage so they can't be used to reach top floor windows.
- Chain large items such as bicycles together, making it much more difficult for a thief to carry away.
- Fit a wire cage inside a shed where more expensive items can be locked away.

**Priority 2 – Violence**

During the month of February the neighbourhood team carried out licensing visits across Abingdon town and surrounding villages, during these visits the premises were all swabbed for traces of drugs. From these swabs we were able to see whether there were any signs of drug usage and if there is, then we work with the premises in a bid to disrupt and deter this.

**Priority 3 – Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)**

We have received reports about motorbikes being ridden anti-socially around the Thrupp Lane area. We have increased our patrols of the area in order to deter this. We can issue section 59 warnings to anyone caught doing this. A section 59 is a warning to the owner of the motorbike OR the rider that if either are caught again the bike can be seized. Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) warning letters are regularly being sent out to people involved in vehicle ASB in the town centre.

**Offenders brought to Justice**

Cherish Curtis aged 22 years-old from Southmoor, was arrested in connection to criminal damage to a vehicle in Park Road that occurred on Tuesday 5th February. The female has subsequently been charged and has a date to appear in court next month.

The Neighbourhood team supported an Immigration operation on the 15th February in Abingdon. Four arrests were made at China Court, Hadland Road.

**Community engagement**

Hi visibility patrols are continuing in Abingdon Town centre to deter shoplifting and purse thefts.

On the 13th March PCSOs Clare Atkins and Miles Miller talked to the nursery children at Long Furlong School around their topic of 'helping people'.

PCSO Blood attended 'Back to 35' a group for the over 50's and gave a

presentation on 'Fraud and Scams'

PCSO Blood and PC Barraclough attended Barclays Bank and gave a presentation on fraud to their Operation Bankers from Oxfordshire and Hampshire.

We had a visit from the reception class from Carswell School, the pupils were completing a topic on 'People who help us'. They were spoken to by officers from the neighbourhood team and shown around the police station.

The TVP Horses supported the neighbourhood team patrol and offer reassurance to Cumnor residents on 7th March following shed breaks in the area.

On 11th March the neighbourhood team showed the 6th Abingdon Cub Pack from Trinity Church around the Police station.

The team delivered fraud prevention presentations to the Women's Institute in Kennington and Marcham.

PC James Barraclough and PCSO Miles Miller attended the Careers Conference at St Helen & St Katharine School on Friday 15th March.

**Forthcoming events:**

Please come along and speak to a PCSO about any local concerns: PCSO Ali Blood and PC Carl Bryant are also holding a bike marking event in the Market Square, Abingdon on Sunday 14 April, 9am – 3pm. Come along with your bikes!

**Contact us:**

E-mail: [AbingdonNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:AbingdonNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

Twitter: @tvpsouthandvale

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/tvpsouthandvale](http://www.facebook.com/tvpsouthandvale)

Phone: 101

Website: [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)

**A Comforting Cradle**



Since I last wrote, a good close friend of mine committed suicide, and I was asked to give a speech at his funeral.

Even though I'm an experienced public speaker, it was one of the toughest speeches I've ever had to give.

On the walk to and from the service, it was unseasonably warm for a late Winter day. The sky was blue, and birds were singing, full bore.

In part, this experience out in nature, witnessing it just carrying on, made me question the point of life and death. Especially if things just carry on, seemingly unaffected by our presence, or absence.

I also thought, nature is a comforting cradle, rocking us gently with its rhythm. Its continuing after we pass just shows we are part of nature. Part of the rhythm of life and death.

So next time you are out in your garden, remember you are part of the ecosystem out there, not just the custodian.

**Happy Gardening!**

**Stuart Mabbutt**

01865 747243 [www.wildmaninspires.co.uk](http://www.wildmaninspires.co.uk)

**SUNNINGWELL & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB**

Demonstration by Paul Green on

**Plants of the Season**

Thursday 11th April at 7.30pm

in Sunningwell Village Hall

New & Non-Members welcome

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## Gospel of Mark – LIVE!

A dramatized recital by Gerald Osbourne, with Colin Heber-Percy

As Easter approaches, it is good to remind ourselves of what it is all about. Come and hear about the life of Jesus and the events leading up to the first Easter as told from eyewitness accounts.

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April, 7pm**

**All Saints' Church, Marcham**

Free entry – all welcome

*The performance will be in aid of Send a Cow.*

## Easter Services

Palm Sunday: 14<sup>th</sup> April

10am: Morning Praise at All Saints'

6pm: Holy Communion at All Saints'

Maundy Thursday: 18<sup>th</sup> April

7.30pm: Holy Communion at St. Mary's, Shippon

Good Friday: 19<sup>th</sup> April

10am-12pm: Family Good Friday

2-3pm: Hour at the Cross at St. Mary's, Shippon

Easter Sunday: 21<sup>st</sup> April

10am: Family Communion at All Saints'

10.30am: Easter Communion at St. Luke's, Garford

6pm: Holy Communion at All Saints'

## St George's Day Service

**4-5pm, Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April**

**All Saints' Church**

All are invited to this service, especially if you are, or ever have been a member of a uniformed organisation. This is a great chance to celebrate these groups and all the volunteers who run them.

The service will be followed by tea and cake!

Dear Friends,

This month we celebrate the wonderful season of Easter, with the momentous event of the resurrection of Jesus Christ at the very heart of the celebration. Jesus' resurrection is the key to so much. But is it true?

St. Paul underlines this in his letter to the Christians in Corinth. He writes: 'If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we testified about God that He raised Christ from the dead. ... For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ... But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.' [1 Corinthians 15: 13 - 20]

Paul encountered the risen Christ, as did so many of the disciples [over 500] who were alive at the time. The whole development and growth of the early Christian Church was founded on the truth of Jesus' resurrection, and the out-pouring of God's Spirit at Pentecost. Timid, fearful disciples were transformed by their encounter with the risen Jesus, and the truth, the reality of His resurrection, enabled them to tell others about the risen Lord, and so the Christian Church was brought into being.

Is it true? ... 'YES!!' And millions of people across the world, from all backgrounds and cultures, know this for themselves as they experience Jesus' Spirit in their day to day lives. And we, too, celebrate the truth and reality of living in the constant company of Christ each day. Easter is here, God is with us! He is risen, He is risen indeed! Rejoice!

Enjoy a wonderful Easter!

Richard

**Regular Sunday services** at 10am & 6pm **Youth Drop-in** 5.30-8pm 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:

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