



Marcham & District News

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

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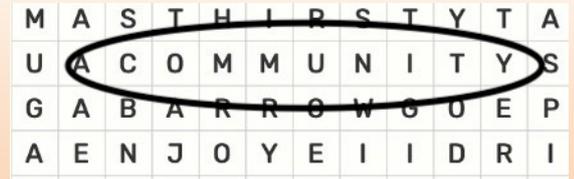
MARCH 2021 VOL: 43 NO: 3

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ At Home with the Pandas (reception class) from Marcham Primary see page 13



▲ A Marcham Centre Wordsearch see page 11



▼ Garden waste collections have restarted!



▲ Little Angels bug houses see pages 13



▲ Redwing (L) and Fieldfare (R) visiting Marcham © Jim Asher 2021



▲ 2021 Census see pages 3 and 15

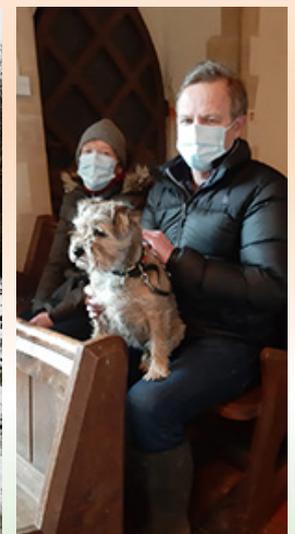


▲ Misty Mornings © Joe Withers 2021



Diary for March

Date	Event	Page
10 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, online, 19.30	3
14 Sun	Mothering Sunday	5,7
15 Mon	Marcham WI: Sian Fox, 19.30 online	7
21 Sun	Census Day 2021	3,15
28 Sun	Clocks go forward one hour at 1am, so put them right on Saturday night!	
20 Sat	Deadline for next issue of MADNews, 17.00 Email editor@madnews.co.uk	
22 Mon	Marcham Society: Oxfordshire on Canvas, 19.30 online	9



▲ Garford in the snow and Debussy for dogs! see page 9

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

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Hedge cutting	

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Most property maintenance covered

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Dear Readers

There was a lot to get into this issue and I am sorry that I have had to leave out the news from the Guides, details of a book about Otmoor, reminiscences of Marcham Players and a few other things. But, fear not, I have filed them for the April issue so it won't be all Easter bunnies, eggs and St George!

A big thanks to Simon Blackmore for his help with the Census page (I am looking forward to being a statistic!) and also to Joe Withers and Jim Asher for their fantastic photos for the cover.

Until next time



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Jane Mander

DEADLINES

Advertising: 5pm 15th month

Other copy: 5pm 20th month

except for Jan when it is 15th Dec for both

ADDITIONAL COPIES

These are available free from Marcham

Post Office or the Editor. Postal copies are

also available – contact the Editor.

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.Osborn@thamesvalley.pnn.](mailto:Richard.Osborn@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

police.uk for Marcham

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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

catherine.webber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

For other councillors go to

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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March 2021

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Resignation of Kieran O'Leary

Kieran, owing to work and family commitments, has decided to resign from the Parish Council. The Council appreciates his contribution to the community and work of the Council. As a result of Kieran's resignation, there will be a vacancy on the Parish Council to be filled. If you are interested in the life of your village, the local environment, traffic, recreational facilities, planning, housing, and want to make an active difference to your community, then please volunteer to join the Council and help make the local decisions that affect us all. If you would like more details, please contact the Clerk whose details are below.

The Willows – Flooding

The Parish Council was concerned to hear at the end of January of flooding in the roadway in The Willows, due to water bubbling out of a manhole in the street. A road closed sign was lent to residents whilst they sorted the issues with their properties. The Willows is a new housing development, and there are current proposals to erect a further 90 dwellings on the land adjacent. The Clerk contacted the planning officer and drainage engineer at the District Council as well as the County and District Councillors. The drainage engineer has reviewed his comments on the application for 90 dwellings and has now lodged an objection, and Thames Water has been reconsulted in the light of the inadequacy of the sewerage system. In regards specifically to The Willows, the local councillors have involved the Head of the Planning Department, planning enforcement, and have contacted the local MP David Johnston who has put pressure on Thames Water.

Garden Waste Collection

The Vale of White Horse District Council has now restored the garden waste collection service, which had previously been suspended.

Census Day Sunday 21st March 2021

Census day is nearly here. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for planning and running the once in a decade survey 2021, which will provide a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. This time it should be easier for many to take part in the Census. For the first time, the census will be digital. You should receive an access code in due course. The public will only have to go online and enter the code into a secure website and then complete the questionnaire form. There is an online help area, and support offered by telephone, webchats, emails, social media and text messages. In addition there will be Census Support Centres set up, and paper forms will be available on request. Look out for further information nearer the time and visit www.census.gov.uk and read the article on page 15 of this issue.

Annual Meeting of Electors

The Annual meeting of electors usually takes place in May. However, owing to the Government restrictions on face to face meetings, no meeting was held last year. The Parish Council is waiting for guidance on the holding of the meeting this year.

Planning applications considered by the Parish Council

P21/V0124/HH Demolition of single storey side extensions, removal of rear roof at first floor. Proposed single storey side extension and two storey side and rear extensions at 11 North Street. The Council requested that materials be sympathetic with the conservation area.

P21/V123/HH Part demolition of existing attached garage and replacement with new side and rear extension at 9 Tower Close. The Council commented on the loss of permeable ground.

P21/V0189/HH Porch to front at Sheepstead Folly. The Council had no objections

MW.005/21 Details pursuant to water monitoring data at Upwood Quarry off A338. The Council requested that exceedances continue to be monitored

R3.003/21 Erection of fencing and installation of ground mounted kitchen air handling equipment at the primary school. Council had no objections, but required that public access to the defibrillator be maintained.

In addition to considering the local planning applications, the Council was represented at a District Council planning committee meeting by Michael Hoath, who spoke against an application for 660 houses + 70 extra care homes close to Kingston Bagpuize. There was great concern regarding the traffic implications through Marcham, and its air quality, together with the impact on the Frilford cross roads. This application was refused by the planning committee.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council is Wednesday 10th March 2021 at 7.30 p.m. To be held virtually via Zoom. However, please check the Council's website for the latest information.

Clerk to the Council:

Mrs. L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Road

Tel: 01865 391833

clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

HELP REQUIRED PLEASE

With spring about to burst upon us, my recently laid front lawn (at no inconsiderable cost!) will very soon need cutting once a week.

As I am no longer able to undertake this relatively straight-forward job through ill-health, I would welcome any offers of help from readers asap. Simple lawn-mower available. Terms to be agreed.

Contact TONY B. 01865 391519

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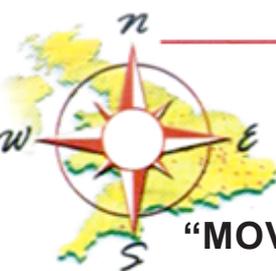
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Dear Readers

Foul Play!

Please pick up your dog's poo – for the sake of your health, and my sanity!

As the owner of a dog who is irresistibly attracted to other dogs' poo, I can honestly say, without fear of contradiction, that there is a lot of it on the streets and paths in and around Marcham. I know that most owners in the village are very careful to pick up after their dogs, and I am very grateful for that, but unfortunately there is still a lot of fouling on public land.

I spend much of my walks trying to stop my dog eating it, and avoiding stepping in it myself! But it is more than just a smelly, unsightly mess in public places and an irritation on my shoe, dog poo can be dangerous for our health too.

Healthy dogs may spread nasty germs through their waste which can affect people of all ages. It is rare, but contact with dog poo can cause illnesses and infections such as toxocariasis, an infection caused by roundworm parasites, which usually affects young children who come into contact with contaminated soil when they play.

So please pick up after your dog and throw the poo bags into one of the many bins available in the village*. You will be helping everyone to stay safe, healthy and happy!

Thank you,

MICHELE STEELE

*Editor's note: Dog waste bins are marked on the Marcham map available from the Post Office and MADNews website - but ANY bin will do



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Sunday: Closed

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In February we had a lovely comment that we went "The Extra Mile"



Oskar Kraftl 1949- 2021

The family of Oskar would like to thank the many friends and neighbours who have supported us during Oskar's illness and the many lovely messages that we have received since his death.

Oskar delivered the MADNews for Howard Cornish Road for over 30 years until as recently as December 2020.

Tricia, Pete and Mart Kraftl

MOVE MORE MONDAYS

Are you looking for some inspiration to help you get a bit more exercise? Have you got internet access?

Generation Games, Age UK Oxfordshire's physical activity service are now running free live exercise sessions on Youtube every Monday at 10am. Or you can access any of their 24 exercise videos on their Youtube channel "generationgamesuk" at a time convenient to you.

Go to youtube.com and search for Move More Mondays

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COVID 19 - VACCINATION

The Government's target for covid vaccinations was to have all over 70s vaccinated by mid-February. The next priority group is those aged between 65 – 70. Vaccinations are being carried out by local GPs, some pharmacies and at larger vaccination centres such as the Kassam Stadium. Those eligible may receive a letter from the NHS and / or be contacted by their GP surgery. You can choose where to be vaccinated, but the second follow up vaccination will need to be carried out at the same place. If you are over 70 and have missed your vaccination for some reason, not heard from your GP surgery, need help with sorting the appointment arrangements, or transport, then please telephone 01235 422600, or email communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk in the first instance. The Marcham helpers group, set up last year, continues to support those who need assistance and your query can be referred to them if appropriate.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

Healthwatch Oxfordshire would like to hear your views on the COVID-19 vaccine.

The county's independent health and care watchdog is running a survey asking people what they think about:

- The vaccine itself
- Information about the vaccine
- How the vaccine is being delivered

Please have your say by completing this survey at www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/CovidVaccine-yourviews

Healthwatch Oxfordshire will report what it hears to those in charge of managing the vaccine delivery locally to help identify if improvements are needed.

Rosalind Pearce, Executive Director at Healthwatch Oxfordshire, said: "We really want to hear how people feel about the vaccine, particularly the reasons why people are deciding to have or not have the vaccination.

"All feedback is completely anonymous – we don't need to know who you are, but we do need to hear your views. Please do take a few minutes to share your thoughts with us on this."

To request a paper copy of the survey, or a translated version, please call 01865 520520 or to find out more about Healthwatch Oxfordshire see www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk



OVER 50? HAD A POSITIVE COVID TEST WITH SYMPTOMS? RESEARCHERS NEED YOUR HELP

People aged over 50 who have had a positive COVID test and are showing symptoms of the virus are being sought for research into helping them get better quickly. Over 50s with certain underlying health conditions and all over 65s with suspected COVID-19 can apply to take part in the University of Oxford study at participating GP practices or www.principletrial.org. Participants are randomly allocated to receive usual care or usual care and an existing medication. It is hoped the trial can prevent people in these groups needing to go to hospital. Contact principle@phc.ox.ac.uk / 0800 138 0880.

Local participating surgery:
Marcham Rd Family Health Centre
 March 2021

Marcham WI



Next Meeting:

7.30pm Monday, 15th March 2021
 via Zoom

Speaker: Sian Fox 'It shouldn't happen to a Home Economist but it generally has'

We will be holding another Zoom meeting in March, when we will be joined by Sian Fox, who will give us her talk on "It shouldn't happen to a Home Economist but it generally has" - a lighthearted canter from rural Wales to working with Jamie Oliver, the Calendar Girls and cooking on the radio. We hope you will join us to listen to what promises to be an enjoyable talk.

We will also be holding our **Annual Meeting**, details of which will have been sent round to all members in advance.:

Monday 19th April: Sarah Dean Kelly: Her experiences doing a trek in the Arctic for Maggie's charity.

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

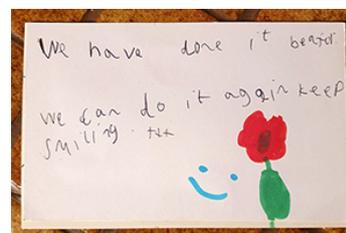
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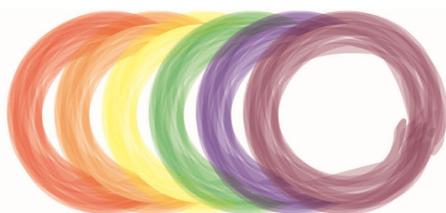
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by Marie-Louise Kerr



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Marcham Society members will be sent the Zoom link automatically. There is a £3 donation for non-members wishing to join the talk.

To join us, please contact:

membership@marchamsociety.org.uk

www.marchamsociety.org.uk

Facebook: marchamsociety



Puzzle Corner - answers from February issue, more next time

TEA TIME TEASER from Cassington and Worton News
Motivational speeches:

1. Never In The field Of Human Conflict Was So much Owed By So Many To So Few, Winston Churchill in Parliament 20th August 1940
2. I Have A Dream that One Day This nation Will Rise Up and Live Out The True meaning Of Its Creed, Martin Luther King at a Civil Rights March in Washington DC 28th August 1963
3. If You Don't Know How To fix It, Please stop Breaking It, Severn Cullis-Suzuki aged 12 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.
4. Human Rights are Women's Rights and Women's Rights Are Human Rights, Hillary Clinton at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995
5. Ask not What Your Country Can Do for You - Ask What You Can do For Your Country, J F Kennedy at his inaugural address 20th January 1961
6. We Must Raise Our Daughters Differently. We Must Also raise Our Sons Differently, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie at TEDxEuston in December 2012

BRAIN TICKLERS by Jane

POPCORN

The longest day is **WEDNESDAY**, which has 9 letters.

The shortest month is **MAY**, which has only 3 letters.

CODEBREAKERS

J F M A M J _ _ _ _ _ D

The missing name on a calendar or year planner is **JASON**, standing for **J**uly, **A**ugust, **S**eptember, **O**ctober, **N**ovember.

Time of year

WINTER (simple alphabetic code, starting with W = 23).

The astrological year starts with A for Aries, 05 being the number of letters in its sign (A+05). By contrast, for example, A08 is **AQUARIUS**.

GARFORD ST LUKE'S

As with the rest of Oxfordshire, Garford was covered by some thick and luxuriant snow at the end of January which led to opportunities for the village children to create impressive snow-people and to share them through the Whatsapp group, a resource which has been increasingly valued during Covid lockdown (see cover).

St Luke's church looked particularly attractive with the snowy frosting and we are now considering making its depiction our Christmas card design for 2021. It will face competition from the stained-glass depiction of the nativity which sits in its medieval stone surround and which is always much admired (see opposite). During the lockdown we have been opening St Luke's on a Sunday morning from 11-12 to allow villagers to sit in the (relative) warmth for private prayer and meditation. Recently we have been playing live music throughout the hour, taking requests for favourite hymns as well as playing some 'relaxing classics'. Bramble the dog (see cover) was particularly enjoying some of the Debussy. In this isolated time, the chance to see other villagers and to wave at them, even from behind masks and socially distanced, has been valuable and heart-warming.

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Marcham Centre

As the UK continues to be in national lockdown, the Marcham Centre facilities are still closed. But the news isn't all bad and the MCG committees are still working in the background to prepare the facilities for re-opening as soon as restrictions are eased.

Preparation for the Cricket Season has begun with work on the cricket square, so we remind people to avoid entering the roped-off area for any reason. Over the whole field the ground continues to settle and the grass has started to grow again. Repair work on the grass area by the patio will begin in early March. The fencing round the field will be coming down in late April. Thank you all for your patience over this time.

Wordsearch This month we have prepared a Wordsearch.

There are 18 words to find and they are all to do with Marcham Centre. Find them and then bring your completed and named Wordsearches either to the Village Shop or post in the Marcham Centre letterbox or send to enquiries@marchamcentre.org by March 15th.

The first 5 correct answers picked out of a hat will each win one free drink in the new Bar when it opens. (The judge's decision is final.)

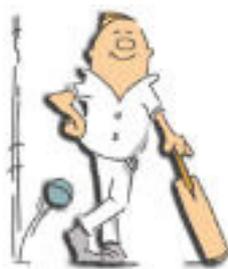
M	A	S	T	H	I	R	S	T	Y	T	A
U	A	C	O	M	M	U	N	I	T	Y	S
G	A	B	A	R	R	O	W	G	O	E	P
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N	L	R	M	I	R	U	B	G	L	E	S
I	U	O	E	A	C	T	P	A	R	T	Y
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U	S	Y	F	A	R	G	B	T	Y	G	S
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MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

Under normal circumstances indoor nets would have been happening for the last month, but despite this not taking place, preparations for a new season is well underway. Work on the square has been undertaken and arrangements are in place to prepare the outfield, part of which is covered by the new levelled area (currently fenced off) and part by the area used by the public over the past year.



Exciting times are ahead, as the long awaited use of the new cricket field is soon to be upon us. This, together with the new changing facilities and hopefully, at some stage, use of the new bar, provides plenty of opportunity for current and new players to mix and enjoy.

The club has, for the past two seasons, played its 'home' games at Clifton Hampden and Freeland. This has undoubtedly been a real inconvenience, but due to two excellent hosts, the club has continued to exist, albeit that last season Covid constraints meant just one team playing for half a season.

The continuing of two teams will be in place for this new season, with matches starting on May 8th. County wide this is also an exciting season, as the previous Oxfordshire Cricket Association (OCA) has merged with the higher level Cherwell League. The standard of cricket will generally be the same, as the vast majority of OCA teams will be performing against teams of a similar level,

some well known and others from the lower divisions of the Cherwell League. Visiting different clubs, albeit some clubs third and fourth elevens, together with different playing arrangements, make the new season even more appealing.

The club are therefore very keen to welcome new members, young and those a bit more senior! Matches are played on a Saturday afternoon, with both teams able to provide cricket for all abilities. The first team is a blend of good village cricketers and those who enjoy their game, are competitive, with an emphasis on the after match experience. Similarly, the second eleven enjoy everything that goes with a competitive, but fun atmosphere, which in recent years has included a good mix of senior players and youngsters.

On these bases, the Club is looking to recruit as many new 'faces' as possible. We are a very friendly club, which will be even more enhanced in our new surroundings. All age groups, including youths from 14 years and upwards, will be welcomed. The club does not run youth teams, but will be encouraging youngsters to play in whatever team is appropriate. Outdoor nets will be arranged once Covid restrictions are eased to accommodate them. Details of this, along with other information, will be included on the club's Facebook page **Marcham Cricket Club** or on twitter **@marchamcc** Alternatively, for further information, contact Trevor Hill on 01865 391321 or e-mail **trevor3chancel@aol.com**

Will be great to hear from you.
TREVOR HILL

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We have had lots to celebrate here at Little Angels during February. For Chinese New Year, the children enjoyed some sticky, messy noodle play. Our Pre-schoolers had a go at using chop sticks and did so well at *persevering* trying to pick up the tricky noodles!



We made beautiful Valentine's cards for all of our families using the children's handprints to make heart shapes. We also enjoyed some Valentine's themed messy play. On Pancake Day we of course enjoyed some homemade pancakes which were absolutely delicious!

Last month, we told you our exciting news about being shortlisted as finalists for the Nursery World Awards. Unfortunately, we weren't crowned as winners but we did enjoy a little party for our children with party food while we watched the awards. The children all made beautiful hats to wear too.

One of our wonderful parents has donated and put up some amazing bug houses in our garden. The children are so excited to see what creatures they attract as the weather warms up!

If you are interested in securing a place for your child please contact us: T: 01865 819992 **Stay Safe**

E: info@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk
www.littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk
and follow us on Facebook: [littleangelsmarcham](https://www.facebook.com/littleangelsmarcham)

News poem from MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL ...
 COVID has meant that many things aren't as they might have been,
 Just think of all that's happened and the changes that we've seen.
 Wearing masks and distancing are some things that we've done
 But here at Marcham Pre-school the children still have fun!
 We cuddle and we pick them up, we wash our hands a lot
 Nappy changes, toileting, are the standard jobs we've got.
 We dance and sing together, as each day we learn and play
 The children love the things we do and this is what they say...
 "What will we do at pre-school now? What is the next thing planned?"

We can't wait to come and meet our friends... it's the best place in the land!"

Now some things are so exciting, when you're turning 4... Or 3...
 It's a time to get together for a special birthday tea!
 But COVID means this can't happen now, you can't visit with relations

So pre-school made a birthday plan to share these celebrations!
 Each month we have a party and birthday cards we make
 Party clothes are worn by all and we have balloons and games and cake!

We know it's hard to stay indoors, you may want to rant and rage
 But we want these children to have the life WE had at the same age!

So reduce the risk and stay at home, you know that this is wise
 So we can get this under control and start to socialise
 While you may face these restrictions for just a little while...
 I hope this poem of pre-school life has made you give a smile.

If you'd like to join our group, for learning and a laugh
 Ring or email right away and talk to pre-school staff
 01865 392101 marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk 😊

Nicky Sanford, Early Years Teacher, Marcham Pre-School

01865 392101 Marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk

www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com



MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

We have a lovely, new video which provides a tour of the school and includes the re-vamped library area and the long-awaited new classrooms. It is available for all to see on the school website marcham.oxon.sch.uk/admissions/

It has been lovely to see so much interaction happening between Marcham Primary School and homes in our community. We are open for those children requiring a school place according to Government guidelines. For those children accessing school from home, the work set has been personalised with voiced instructions and messages from teachers. They have filmed videos reading stories, set challenges, classes have met on Google Meets, smaller groups of students have had feedback sessions and we have had our weekly online assembly. As a school community, we have found many creative ways to capture the sense of belonging which we hold dear.

May I commend the very many families who have persevered with remote learning; those who have remained positive; those who have done all they can to motivate and engage their children; those who have been curious about their children's learning and have regularly worked alongside them; those who have known when to turn the screens off and have given children a chance to run around, play or embrace nature and the world around them; those who have sent supportive emails to school; those who have read and talked about books with their children every day. Thank you. We will continue to value each other's efforts and take advantage of every learning experience.

We are not sure what the immediate future will bring and, at the time of printing, we await the announcements from the Prime Minister. Whatever happens, please be assured that Marcham Primary school always want what is best for our children and will do all we can, as safely as we can, in whatever circumstances we find ourselves.

Some images of what Panda pupils (in Reception) have been getting up to during the lockdown are on the cover this month.

VIV HUTCHINSON, HEADTEACHER

Volunteer Vacancy Clerk to Governing Body Marcham Church of England Primary School



You don't need to be a parent but must have an interest in being involved with the school and how it is run. The Governing body play a distinctive and essential role in the continuing success and development of the school. The clerk provides administrative support to the Governors e.g. minute taking, organisational support and when needed, help with procedural matters. The new clerk will receive training together with regular briefings explaining the latest governance developments. If you would like to speak to the existing clerk to find out more, please email Dalvinder at dalvinderhm@googlemail.com, or please contact Jane Jeffries at office.3235@marcham.oxon.sch.uk

PTA Round Up

Is it just me or do you feel like the weeks are flying by at the moment? Sadly there isn't much to report from the PTA as we have been unable to hold any fundraising events; we need to think about new ways we can do this until things get back to 'normal'. Do you have any ideas? If so the PTA would love to hear them. There are other ways you could help to support the PTA and school e.g. by signing up to 'Amazon Smile' or 'Easyfundraising'. We also now have our own social media page on Facebook, please look for our group 'Marcham Primary School PTA'. Here you will find updates about events we will be holding and also information on what the money raised is being spent on. **LISA NEWPORT**

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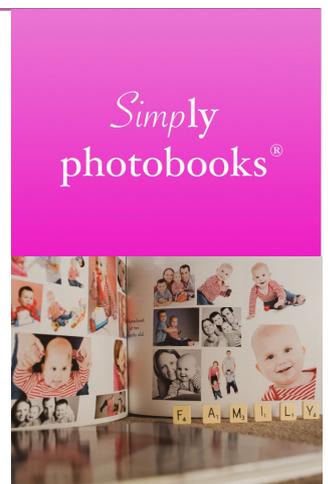
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Have you received your Census letter?

Census day is on Sunday 21st March, and you will be receiving letters with a unique online code explaining how you can complete your survey.



If you don't get one in the next couple of weeks, please get in touch with the national census contact centre. You can also request a paper questionnaire if you'd prefer to complete your census that way. The contact centre can also provide guidance and help for those who need it.

Additionally, local census support centres will be open while the census is happening. Staff will offer help for people who are not confident online, or who do not have a computer, or need help completing on paper.

The census, run by the Office for National Statistics, is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every ten years since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

Now is the time to make your mark on history !

It takes just 10 minutes per person to take part and your census response will help inform where millions of pounds of public funding is spent on services like transport, education and health – on cycle routes, schools and dental surgeries. Information from the census is also important in helping lots of other people and organisations do their work.

Charities and voluntary organisations often use it as evidence to get funding. It helps businesses to understand their customers and, for example, decide where to open new shops. Plus,

those doing research, like university students and people looking into their family history, use census data. It provides important information on population diversity, allowing organisations to know whether they are meeting their responsibilities and triggering action where necessary.

There are new questions this year

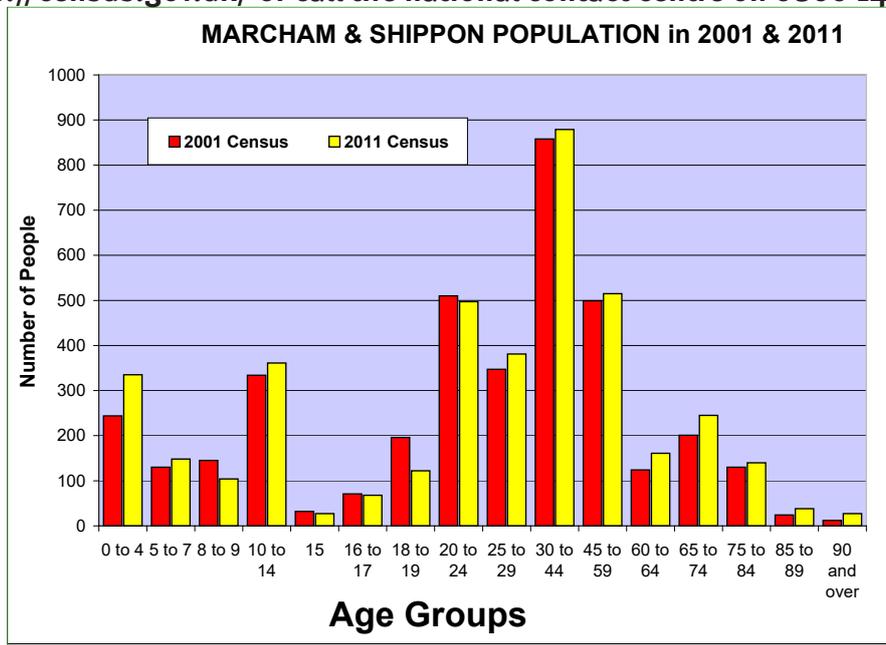
The questionnaire includes questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Keeping you and your information safe

All personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations. Statistics are only compiled based on anonymised data. Personal information is not shared with any organisation and is never sold.

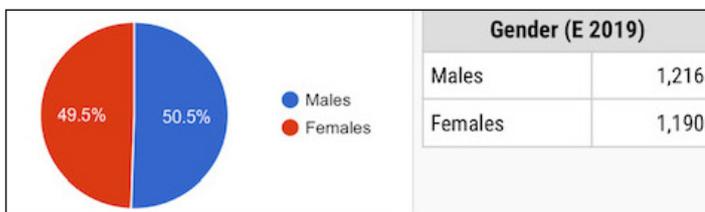
Operating in line with the Government's latest Covid-19 guidance, field officers will be deployed across the country to contact those who have not responded. They will offer help and advice to those who need it. **They will also remind people that their census response is a legal requirement.**

For more information and to find out how you can get help, please visit <https://census.gov.uk/> or call the national contact centre on 0800 141 2021



Simon Blackmore has produced this graph from the anonymous data taken from the Censuses of Marcham and Shippon in 2001 and 2011 showing the growth in the population; below an estimated breakdown of gender and age in 2019.

For more information about past surveys go to <https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/search/result/?q=census>



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Room To Disagree

I've heard it discussed in the media over the last few weeks, about whether people should be wildlife gardeners or traditional gardeners, when we are facing a climate and ecological emergency, and widespread social injustice. What do you think? Take some time to fully consider which one people should be, and which you consider yourself to be. Peel away the layers of views and assumptions, like those of an onion, and find the truth within.



My conclusion, we can be, and should be allowed to be, anything we want. There's no real hard and fast rules here, we're all probably a little bit of both, even though we may not always be consciously aware of it, or even acknowledge it. These are just titles, labels, categories, that we shroud ourselves, and others, in. It's ok to be a traditional gardener. It's just as ok to be a wildlife gardener. It's also ok to do a little of both.

After our shared experience of Covid 19, and its pandemic, most of us are just a little bit more appreciative of our gardens, our parks, our green spaces, which are local to us. Just get out there, enjoy it, don't worry about if you, or others, are wildlife gardeners or traditional gardeners, or anything else. Just see the value in how anyone chooses to garden, how they choose to do this and that, how they choose to live life.

I've written many times that the gardening trade, which I don't work in so much these days, is undervalued, compared with other trades. Often I'd quote for work and people would be shocked at the costs, when they could go down the road, and find a teenager, a pensioner or a local chap, who would all work for spare change. Though clearly happy to pay a plumber or a builder a reasonable fee and expect a good salary themselves, it is a different matter when it comes to pay for the house and garden they own, and are custodians of.

I often said to past gardening clients, who claimed I was too expensive, that I need a good salary myself to be able to own a house, just like theirs. Thankfully my work these days is more in the media, but spare a thought for all those struggling gardeners out there. Be kind, be polite to each other.

So, when deliberating how gardeners should be, allow them space to be traditional gardeners, or wildlife gardeners, if they wish. There's always room to disagree, for differing perspectives, another point of view. Allow gardeners to be expensive or cheap. Just respect them and appreciate them. The truth is often in the middle ground, although that can seem beige and mediocre at times.

Gardeners will of course enable you to enjoy your garden, the parks, and the green spaces that you have and will come to enjoy more due to the pandemic. We're all in this together, whether we're traditional or wildlife gardeners. Have you decided? Which one are you?

Happy Gardening!

Stuart Mabbutt

01865 747243 www.wildmaninspires.co.uk

POLICE NEWS

Electric Scooter advice



We have received several reports in relation to the use of E-scooters in the area. We would like to take this opportunity to clarify the law and rules surrounding the use of E-scooters:

- E-scooters are classed as a motor vehicle and so the use of them falls under the Road Traffic Act 1988.
- As private E-scooters cannot be insured, taxed or registered, as motor vehicles need to be, they can only be used on private land, with the permission of the landowner.
- Rental E-scooters as part of the government trials can be used on public roads but not on pavements. However, there are currently no government trials taking place in the Abingdon area.

Therefore, the use of an E-scooter is currently illegal unless it is being ridden on private land. Following the reports the team have received, PCSO Jamie Horner has written a warning letter to one rider and PCSO Clare Atkins has been carrying out enquiries, following a separate complaint.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) and Lockdown Breaches

On Tuesday 2nd February, the neighbourhood team responded to several reports of young people gathering in the town centre, being anti-social, fighting and breaching the current COVID restrictions. A number of young people were stopped and checked. Follow-up work is being completed, including the review of CCTV. All persons identified will receive a home visit and be spoken to about their conduct, and their parents/guardians reminded of the restrictions in place. If there are further breaches, the parents/legal guardians will be issued with COVID 19 Fixed Penalty Notices.

Criminal Damage

PCSO Rich Osborn has been following up reports of criminal damage in Marcham, by completing house to house and CCTV enquiries. Damage was caused to several vehicles in the village on the evening of Friday 15th January. Despite the associated social media attention in relation to the incidents, we believe there may be some victims who have not officially reported damage to the police. Investigations are ongoing at this time, however if you have any information about the incidents, please get in contact.

Safety advice

Cyclists and runners should ensure they are visible when exercising in and around the villages. Bright or reflective clothing is recommended, along with front and rear lights for cyclists.

When exercising dogs, please ensure they are kept under control, especially around other dogs, people and livestock.

Crime prevention advice

If you would like any crime prevention advice, including a home security assessment, please contact the team by emailing AbingdonNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Alternatively, you can download our free Home Security Guide by visiting <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/police-forces/thames-valley-police/areas/advice/home-security-guide/>

Contact Thames Valley Police:

E-mail: AbingdonNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Twitter: @tvpsouthandvale

Facebook: www.facebook.com/tvpsouthandvale

Phone: 101

Website: www.thamesvalley.police.uk

CRIMESTOPPERS
0800 555 111
 Call anonymously with information about crime
Tell them what you know, not who you are

When you dispose of any face masks, snip off the ear straps before you throw them away. Hundreds of tangled animals have had to be rescued from them.

Takes a moment, makes a huge difference

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT ELECTRIC VEHICLES AND THEIR CHARGERS

You will all be aware that science has concluded that what comes out of petrol cars (particulates and NoX gases) is the source of many serious illnesses. We need to clean up the air we breathe! So, the travelling public is being urged either to use public transport or to drive Electric vehicles (EVs) which emit a fraction of what petrol cars emit. The target is that by 2030 only EVs, and no petrol cars, will be sold. As a result, councils are trying to help the public by introducing electric chargers in easy reach for car owners.

Unfortunately, councils are struggling to persuade the big developers to put electric chargers into new developments. To build the old way is what these developers want to do as they make more money this way. But we are in a Climate Emergency so we must persuade developers to make the norm to put in electric chargers for all new houses, as well as to build sustainable houses with heat source pumps instead of gas boilers and with solar panels/tiles on the roofs to generate renewable energy. We must persuade the government to move faster to encourage developers to take this Climate Emergency more seriously so that we don't have to retrofit houses that are actually being built *as I write*.

What is the Vale Council doing?

Following a public consultation, the Vale of White Horse District Council's Cabinet have approved several changes to parking arrangements to help reduce vehicle emissions.

Last November almost 200 people commented in a consultation on proposed changes to the parking arrangements. At their meeting, on Friday 5 February, the council's Cabinet considered the results, and approved that the following measures will now be included in the district's new parking policy:

1) Reducing vehicle emissions

In Abingdon, lorries will no longer be able to park in Rye Farm car park, and specific spaces will be allocated for a coach and campervans in Hales Meadow car park. This popular move to free up more spaces in Rye Farm for smaller vehicles should encourage people visiting from the A415 to park here on edge of town rather than joining the traffic in the town centre, so helping to reduce congestion and improve air quality.

2) Encouraging electric vehicle use

The Vale is currently working with Oxfordshire County Council with a view to introduce electric vehicle charging bays in some district council car parks. If this happens then, under the new policy, parking enforcement officers will have new powers to fine motorists who park non-electric vehicles in electric charging bays, or who leave an electric vehicle parked in a charging bay when it's not charging.

Oxfordshire EV Infrastructure Strategy(OEVIS)

Recently, I have been put on the Member Steering group of the OEVIS and have been looking at 17 new policies which have been designed to encourage the public to move to EVs. They aim to make it easy for owners to charge their electric cars wherever they are and whatever the type of charging they need.

Some useful information

1) UK Charging - Live Map (<https://www.zap-map.com/live/>)

2) US and EU Charging Map (<https://www.plugshare.com>)

3) Grants in UK (<https://www.gov.uk/plug-in-car-van-grants>):

*£2,500 - £4,500 grants available for hybrid/ full EVs^{[1][2]}

*20% grants available (up to £8000 maximum) for vans^{[1][2]}

*Up to £20,000 grants available for vehicles over 3.5 tonne weight

Keep safe and well.

CATHERINE WEBBER Cllr VWHDC -

District Councillor for Marcham Ward

07857 464699 or catherine.webber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT YOUNG PEOPLE

There was an elderly gent on Any Answers last weekend whose opinions really worried me. Now that he had been vaccinated, he thought that he should be able to spend his pension on going back to the world travel he had been used to. Forgetting the problem of the impact his travelling would have on global warming, most people I know of my generation agree that, whilst we bask in the confidence that vaccination has given us, it is increasingly important that we spare a thought for our young people. Of course, it is right that vaccination has, so far, been focused on the most vulnerable, and that far more elderly people than young people have been hospitalised and died from Covid. But when society looks back at this period, I have no doubt that it will be the long term impact of Covid on younger people that will concern them most.

Young families with small children have been particularly badly affected. Trying to cope with home working, home schooling and lockdown have been a major challenge for them all. The stress on family life has affected almost every family to some extent. The potential long term damage of missed education is still not understood. Children are remarkably resilient, but we do not know what the long term damage to children's mental health will be. Confused and inconsistent announcements from the Department of Education have added to the stress felt by children and their parents. The impact of the A level fiasco on secondary age children has certainly not helped the confidence of young people, many of whom are not certain what their qualifications are worth. The stress on University and college students has been just as severe. Trying to manage accommodation lockdown, online learning, and how to pay fees are making many feel that further education is simply not worth it. Others choose to stick at it if only to wait for job prospects to improve.

Away from University and college, young people face excess competition for too few jobs. The rising unemployment in young people is very worrying. There is the potential for a 'lost generation' – potentially less wealthy and less healthy than their parents and grandparents, growing up with the threat of global warming and further pandemics. It would be very easy to become utterly depressed.

What can we do about it? Much depends on national government, but there are things we can do locally and there are things that are already being done. This is not the first time I have written about the Damascus Youth Project which serves the villages of Drayton, Appleford, Milton, Sutton Courtenay and Steventon. With professionally qualified youth workers and funded by all the Parishes, young people in our area have a support system denied to many in Oxfordshire. This work has continued throughout the pandemic. Supporting, encouraging and believing in the power of young people to improve society, the work of Damascus has been noticed both locally and nationally.

For the first time, there was an acknowledgment in the recent budgets of all political parties that much more help was needed by young people than was currently on offer. We have moved on from the idea that youth work is simply about offering youth clubs everywhere. Valuable as they are, protecting and engaging with vulnerable young people is an activity requiring expertise. Trained experts, as offered by the Damascus Youth project, are the obvious way forward. It will, of course, require financing. Too much of Damascus's time is spent worrying about fund raising. Properly financed, they could reach far more young people.

So, well done Roxy, Rita and all of the Damascus team and thank you for all the work you do.

How can the rest of us help? Some of us could offer jobs and apprenticeships to young people. Having a job, any job, is an important part of building confidence and self esteem. If you have

a particular skill or position of influence, offer your services to Damascus who will always welcome it. All of us can help to make young people feel appreciated and that they are the future. If this sounds like an angry rant, well it is. It is my generation that have created the mess. The least we can do is to stop worrying about our own, relatively fortunate selves and worry about the future of our young people.

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

MP’S REPORT

In the Armed Forces Bill Debate recently I was able to highlight our constituency’s contribution to the country’s efforts – not just in being home to institutions like the Defence Academy at Shrivenham and the 11 EOD and Search Regiment in Didcot – but in service by some of my predecessors, too. As most of you will know, when the seat was Abingdon the MP was Airey Neave, who had a proud record of service in World War 2; his predecessor was Ralph Glyn, who served in World War 1 and was awarded a military cross.

We were having the debate because since 1688, the consent of parliament has been required for the raising and keeping of a standing army. In modern times, this means that every 5 years parliament is asked to give consent to an Armed Forces Bill, without which there is no means to ensure service personnel obey orders. The Government used the Bill to do other things such as update the Service Justice System, extend the use of posthumous pardons for abolished sexual offences and further enshrine the Armed Forces Covenant in law. The latter means local authorities will have to have due regard to service in decisions they make about health, education and housing – and rightly so.

I take a particular interest in the armed forces as my dad served in the army for 18 years. The army has of course played a key role in our superb vaccination efforts – at the time of writing we have passed the Government’s 15 million target, which is a remarkable achievement in such a short space of time. From volunteering several times I have seen first-hand the fantastic efforts of our medical staff and volunteers – and the relief local residents feel when they have their first jab.

I recently became one of the Conservative Environment Network’s Net Zero Champions. What this means in practice is I will be campaigning for nature-based solutions to help tackle climate change, including stopping the sale of peat for use in horticulture, protecting and improving our blue carbon assets and undertaking a national capital audit. More on this in the future – and some other campaigns.

While I am not doing face to face meetings at the moment, I am still doing telephone/Zoom surgery appointments – to book one of these or contact me about something else, do email david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk

DAVID JOHNSTON OBE MP, Member of Parliament for Wantage House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
0207 219 3858 Email: david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk

DON’T DESPAIR! CITIZENS ADVICE CAN HELP YOU WITH DEBT

When bills start piling up and multiplying, vague fears can turn into a paralysing panic for people experiencing money troubles. Turn to **Citizens Advice (CA)**, which has eighty years of experience in pulling people back from precipices.

Start by assembling your bills and make an overall list, with relevant details like dates when payment is due. Sort the bills into priority debts (rent and mortgage arrears, Council Tax, gas and electricity, tax and National Insurance – and see www.citizensadvice.org/debt-and-money for a complete list) and non-priority debts (water rates – your supplier can’t cut you off – credit card debts, unsecured



loans, hire purchases etc). Take the priority debts first and contact your creditors. Don’t be afraid of this step. Many companies will be expecting you to get in touch, saying on the bill itself “We know that paying a bill can be difficult” or “Affected by Covid-19?” -and providing a telephone number or web link. Approach them with a constructive attitude, tell them you are actively tackling your debts, and perhaps ask them to suspend interest charges while you do so. They also might be amenable to letting you defer payment or pay smaller amounts over a longer time period. Ask about any special reductions – for example, the Warm Home Discount Scheme for electricity supplies (see www.gov.uk for more information).

If you need to compose a letter or email to a creditor, you could copy or adapt a template letter from the CA website. One especially useful letter asks creditors to give you more time.

If your circumstances have changed you might be able to claim benefits, or extra benefits. CA runs a Help to Claim programme (call **0800 144 8444**) and can guide you through all the stages. The Turn2us website at turn2us.org.uk will tell you what benefits you might be able to claim, and has details of grants available.

If you have an overdraft, talk to your bank. In the coronavirus age many banks are making concessions and charging no interest on overdrafts up to a certain amount. Contact your district council about a possible Council Tax reduction. And think creatively about ways of increasing your income. Could you rent out a spare room in your house, for instance?

Talk to a volunteer at CA (call Adviceline free on **0800 278 7907**, Monday to Friday 9 am to 5 pm) or through webchat (“chat with us online about debt”) Monday to Friday 8 am to 7 pm citizensadvice.org. Appointments in person are not available at present.

Vacancy

Part-time Care-Coordinator

Flexible 7.5 -15 hours per week (approx)

£13.82 per hour (pay review pending)

Pension scheme with employer’s contribution

28 days holiday pro-rata’d

Flexicare is a small, local charity, which provides a home respite service for families with severely disabled children; giving a few hours of care for the child and their siblings while their parents take a break. The service is currently run by a manager (who also provides care), two care-coordinators and a team of volunteers.

We are currently looking for a third care-coordinator, whose role includes:

- Carrying out sits
- Arranging sits as requested by families
- Providing support for the team and ensuring high standards of care
- Assessing prospective new families and volunteers
- Facilitating training
- Assisting with the running of the charity and fundraising events

We are looking for someone who:

- has a nursing background or experience with working with severely disabled children
- is prepared to work flexibly (including some evenings and weekends)
- is a car driver with access to a car(essential)
- is not afraid of cake baking!

This is a lovely job for the right person, the flexibility offered to the families extends to the staff and volunteers too, so working for the charity fits in around other commitments. The team is small, friendly and supportive, and the work is varied and enjoyable. If this sounds like something that would interest you, call us on 01865 321881 or 0781 7727563. Interviews will be held before Easter, probably virtually.



ALL SAINTS' & ST. LUKES CHURCHES

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk



Calling all walkers, runners, & cyclists – who would like some motivation to get outside this March?!

The Marcham – Mozambique: Miles in March challenge has been launched to travel the 7,726 miles (jointly & virtually...!)

Who will join us?

In doing so you can give, raise funds or raise awareness of half a million people (mostly women and children) in northern Mozambique who have fled violence often walking days and weeks to get to safety with virtually nothing.

The churches in Mozambique are already doing what they can and looking after people but these funds will provide food and basic necessities for more people. The needs are huge.

To join in, go here online to sign up:

<https://umbali.org/challenge/marcham-mozambique-miles-in-march>

Please join in and sign up!



By joining our challenge, we will be supporting & walking in solidarity with people like Joana who has suffered greatly. Her story is featured in the challenge.

Thank you!

'To those whom much is given, much is expected'. Luke 12:48

Whilst we remain in lockdown or tier 4 we will continue to run virtual services and activities only. Please tune into our YouTube channel on a Sunday morning at 10am to join us.

[youtube.com/c/AllSaintsMarcham](https://www.youtube.com/c/AllSaintsMarcham)

Other activities are happening over Zoom, so please see our website for further information.

Once we are out of tier 4 restrictions we will then consider in-person services again.

If you would like to chat to the parish chaplain or one of our pastoral care volunteers, please do get in contact.

Contacts:

Mark Newman Chaplain to the Parish
chaplain@allsaintsmarcham.org

Rob Finch Youth Worker 07888331708,
rob@marchamyouth.org

Tamsin Gilbert Parish Administrator & Churchwarden

info@allsaintsmarcham.org

Neil Rowe Churchwarden 391168

Open Churches

All Saints' & St. Lukes are both open for private prayer at times:

All Saints': Saturday all day & Sunday pm – heated 2-3pm on Sunday

St. Lukes: 11am-12pm Sunday (heated)