



# Marcham & District News

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

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

DECEMBER 2021 VOL: 43 NO: 12

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ What's new in the shop? see page 5



▲ Remembrance 2021 see page 7

▲ Quiz Night with Trevor at Marcham Centre see page 11



▲ Pre-School are 'Champion' at measuring! see page 15



▲ Don't forget to visit the Santons at 14 Mill Road – a wonderful sight every year

**Christmas Holidays 2021 Waste Collection Changes**  
~~Wednesday 29 Dec~~ **Friday 31 Dec**  
**Rubbish and Food Waste**  
~~Wednesday 5 Jan~~ **Saturday 8 Jan**  
**Recycling and Food Waste NOT GARDEN**

## Diary for December

Date	Event	Pg		
3 Fri	Marcham Community Group Meeting and AGM, Marcham Centre, 19.30	11	20 Mon	Marcham WI: Christmas Party, Marcham Centre, 19.30
4 Sat	Second Hand Clothes and Toys Sale, Marcham Centre, 09.00-11.00	9	21 Tue	Last posting date for 1st class mail
4 Sat	Christmas Craft Morning, All Saint's Church, 09.30 - 12.30	20	21 Tue	Carols on the Green, St Luke's Church, 18.00
10 Fri	Quiz Night, Marcham Centre, 19.30	11	22 Wed	Last posting date for Tracked 24 mail
11 Sat	Unveiling of Marcham Centre Sign, 10.00	11	23 Thur	Last posting date for Special Delivery
11 Sat	Christmas Mini Market, Bothy Vineyard, 10.00 – 17.00	16	23 Thur	Carols Around the Tree, Little Angels Nursery
11 Sat	Punch and Pies, All Saints' Church, 11.00-13.30	7	24 Fri	Crib Service, St Luke's Church, 14.30
13 Mon	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Marcham Centre, 19.30	3	24 Fri	Carol Service, St Lawrence Church, Tubney, 15.30
15 Wed	Deadline for next issue of MADNews, 17.00 Email <a href="mailto:editor@madnews.co.uk">editor@madnews.co.uk</a>		24 Fri	Holy Communion, All Saints' Church, 23.00
15 Wed	Santa's Grotto, Little Angels Nursery	15	25-28	Marcham Village Shop and Post Office CLOSED
17 Fri	Family Christmas Disco, Marcham Centre, 18.30-21.00	11	25 Sat	Christmas Communion, St Luke's Church, 09.00
18 Sat	Last posting date for 2nd class mail	5	25 Sat	Christmas Family Communion, All Saints' Church, 10.00
19 Sun	Carol Service, St Luke's Church, 16.00	20	31 Fri	New Year's Eve Party, Marcham Centre, 19.30-00.30

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

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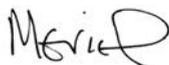
Dear Readers

You may be puzzling over all the monkeys in this issue of MADNews... well if you spot them all, you can rearrange the letters to find out her name.

There will be more animal antics next year so keep an eye on MADNews in 2022.

I wish you all a peaceful holiday time and thank all those who work when the rest of us are snoozing after a surfeit of snacks!

Until next year



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**PROOFREADING**

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.

**POLICE**

PCSO Rich Osborn C9323  
[Richard.Osborn@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Richard.Osborn@thamesvalley.pnn.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](mailto: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](mailto:catherine.webber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

For other councillors go to

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

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**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**Christmas Tree Recycling**

For those of you who have real Christmas trees, and are signed up to the District Council's garden waste service, your trees, when you no longer need them, can be put out next to the brown bin provided they are less than 6 ft or 1.8m. They need to be cut into sections if taller than this. If you are not part of the garden waste scheme, and do not have a brown bin, then your real Christmas tree can be taken to the Drayton Recycling Centre, to Millets Farm or placed on the hardstanding by the Salvation Army Textile bank in Howard Cornish Road (opposite Duffield Place). Trees will be collected from Millets Farm on Sunday 9th January, 2022 and from the hardstanding next to the Textile bank on Thursday 20th January. Trees will need to be left, at the latest, the day before collection. Predictions are that it will be a cold and possibly snowy winter, so keep an eye on the District Council's website / social media for any collection updates.

Please also remember to observe the Government's Covid 19 regulations in force at the time when in public areas.

**Parishioner of the Year**

The Council is again considering the possibility of an award for 2021, to be presented at the annual meeting of electors should one be able to be held in Spring next year. The Award recognises the efforts of local people who at any time have significantly contributed to life within the parish. Previous nominations have been carried forward, however the Council would invite anyone who wishes to put forward a new suggestion, to submit a short statement of not more than 200 words, as to whom he/she wishes to nominate, and the reasons why the person should receive the award. All nominations to be emailed to the Clerk at the email address below. The Council, owing to Covid 19, was unable to give an award for the past 2 years, and the names of those previously nominated will be carried forward and considered this year along with any new nominations.

**Grant Applications**

Applications for grants were considered at the November meeting of the Parish Council. The Council awards grants, subject to certain conditions, where there is benefit for the residents of Marcham. The Council was pleased to be able to support the following organisations:

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal - £120  
South and Vale Citizens Advice Bureau - £1000 towards running costs

Other applications from Marcham Community Group and Be Free Young Carers were deferred to a future meeting, to allow for additional information to be sought.

**Christmas Tree – Village Green**

To bring seasonal cheer to the village and to raise spirits during the period of the continued pandemic, the Council is again planning to site a Christmas tree on the village green. It has also been investigating the possibility of planting a bare-rooted one for future years, so

that it can grow gradually and be left in situ.

**GigaClear - cabinets**

A large cabinet to serve the proposed new ultra fast broadband has been sited at the junction of Parkside and New Road. This location is in the conservation area and close to a listed structure. The Parish Council has asked the Vale of White Horse District Council to investigate.

**Primary School Admission September 2022 – Is your child 3 or 4 years old?**

If you are a parent or carer of a child born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018 (inclusive) then you need to apply for a primary school place. You still have to apply even if your child already attends a nursery attached to the school. For further information and to apply online go to <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primary-admissions> The closing date for applications is 15th January, 2022. If you do not have immediate internet access, then you can access the internet at many of the County Council's libraries when they are open.

**Oxfordshire County Council – Road Closure North Street – Advanced notice**

It is likely that the section of North Street A415 The Crown public house to the vehicle access into Sweetbriar will be closed between 10th January 2022 to 14th January 2022 to allow for replacement gas main. A bus diversion will be in operation.

**Thames Water – New Reservoir**

Thames Water is still active in proposing a new reservoir south of Marcham. The Council has written to Rapid (Regulators' Alliance for Progressing Infrastructure Development) to maintain the Council's view that the need for the reservoir has not been justified, and that alternative measures such as river transfer should continue to be fully explored.

**Planning Applications**

There had been no planning applications received for consideration at the November meeting.

**Date of Next Council Meeting:**

Monday 13th December 2021 at 7.30pm in Marcham Village Hall, Barrow Close. Please check the Council's website [www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk) for the latest information in case of changes.

**Clerk to the Council:**

Mrs. L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Road  
Tel: 01865 391833  
[clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
[www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**The Council wishes everyone a happy Christmas**

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

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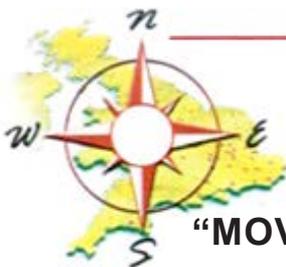
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## Hidden Heroes

I'd like to propose each and every member of Marcham Primary School staff for a 'hidden hero'.



They have definitely been our 'heroes' during the last few weeks and months. Life in schools has been completely turned upside down and has changed so much since early 2020.

Recently, COVID cases have hit the school and this has brought additional challenges but the staff have been amazing!

Keeping parents informed, keeping children safe and continuing to provide them with a care-free school day - what more could we ask for?

Well done, Marcham!!

NS

.....  
We are looking for more nominations for your Hidden Heroes. Send a name (plus a photo if you want) and a short description of why you want to nominate them - email [editor@madnews.co.uk](mailto:editor@madnews.co.uk) or drop a note through the editor's door at 8 Orchard Way.

## FALLEN TREES ON ROAD

A fallen tree on public highways should be reported to the emergency services if it is considered to be an imminent danger to road users or pedestrians. Otherwise trees on, near or affecting county roads, road verges and surfaced public rights of way should be reported to the Highways Team [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/contactus/contact-highways-team](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/contactus/contact-highways-team)

You can report dead animals in public areas (such as dogs, cats, deer, foxes and badgers), particularly if they are causing an obstruction on the highway or footpath. To report a dead animal call **03000 610610** or email [admin.vale@biffa.co.uk](mailto:admin.vale@biffa.co.uk).



**Here is one letter - find the rest and see if you can work out the MADNews monkey's name!**



### Usual Opening Hours

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Sunday: Closed

### Christmas and New Year Opening Hours

**Friday 24th 8.00-13.00**  
**25th to 28th Closed**  
**Wednesday 29th 8.00-13.00**  
**Thursday 30th 8.00-13.00**  
**Friday 31st 8.00-13.00**  
**1st Jan to 3rd Closed**  
**Tuesday 4th Jan**  
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### Marcham Village Shop AGM

Did you miss it?

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### Last posting dates for Christmas

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Date	Destinations
Wednesday 1 December	Caribbean
Monday 6 December	Australia, Greece, Italy, New Zealand and Portugal
Wednesday 8 December	Africa, Central and South America, Asia, Far and Middle East
Friday 10 December	Cyprus, Malta and Sweden
Saturday 11 December	Eastern Europe (except Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia), Turkey
Monday 13 December	Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, Poland and USA
Thursday 16 December	Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland

#### HM Forces Mail - British Forces Post Office® (BFPO)\*

Monday 6 December	Static HM Forces
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#### UK Inland Services\*

Date	Service
Friday 17 December	Royal Mail Bulk Mail Economy
Saturday 18 December	2nd Class, 2nd Class Signed For, Royal Mail 48®
Tuesday 21 December	1st Class, 1st Class Signed For, Royal Mail 24®, Royal Mail Tracked 48®**
Wednesday 22 December	Royal Mail Tracked 24®**
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## Marcham WI

Next Meeting:

7.30pm Monday, 20th December 2021

At the Marcham Centre

### Christmas Cracker Party Evening

To really get you in the festive spirit, wear something Christmassy and come along for some fun at the Marcham WI Christmas party. We'll be having a bring and share supper, so please bring along a plate of food to share.

We'll be having a Christmas bottle raffle again this year, so it would be much appreciated if you could bring along a contribution; it could be a bottle of anything. We will also be repeating the collection of non-perishable treats for the food bank, unwrapped so they can see what has been donated, but could be decorated with cellophane or some ribbon to look festive. We'll be sending full details of all the arrangements round to our members before the evening.

For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com



### Anson Trust Grants and Volunteers Update

Through the course of the last three years the Anson Trust has worked hard with the local community groups, parish council and Thomas Homes to help bring the Marcham Centre and associated facilities to life including the new Nursery building.

Now that this project is complete, we have been able to take the time to reorganise the Trust to ensure a positive financial outlook. It is now time to look to fulfil the other part of the Anson Trust's charitable objectives which is to support people in the local area through grants where there is a clear positive outcome. With this aim being the Trust's current priority, we have created a new grant policy and application form which can be found at [ansontrust.org](http://ansontrust.org) with applications now being considered. These applications will be considered at each of the quarterly meetings with the next meeting being on Monday 10th January 2022.

As we embark on this exciting new chapter for the Trust we are looking for new members to join the team to ensure the expansion of the Trust's work in the village. A key and exciting part of the role will be to review and decide on the grant applications with a view to making the biggest positive contribution to the village. If you would like to make a positive difference to the village and our community and can commit to an evening meeting four times a year, please contact us at [ansontrustmarcham@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ansontrustmarcham@yahoo.co.uk)



### RBL Poppy Appeal for Marcham, Frilford and Cothill

We are pleased to announce the collection in Marcham, Garford and surrounding area came to

**£4,964.00.**

We would like to thank all the businesses and locations that allowed us to set up collecting points.

In addition to the above Garford held a successful Quiz evening and they have donated over **£400** raised from the event separately.

Your generosity in difficult times is deeply appreciated

**Malcolm and Christine Denton** - local organisers

### Punch & Pies – Saturday 11th December

Marcham Moldova Lifeline (MML) is holding a Punch and Pie morning in All Saints' Church on Saturday 11th December from 11:00-13:30 to raise much-needed funds.

MML was set up to help Moldovan villages in great need. Thanks to generous donations from people in Marcham, we have provided welcome assistance. Covid-19 has made living conditions in Moldova even more difficult and the need is greater than ever.

Please join us on 11th December and enjoy punch and food for this good cause. We hope you will donate generously while having a happy morning with friends and neighbours. See you there...

**DENISE ASHER 391727**



Marcham  
Moldova  
Lifeline



Members of the Scouts and Guides preparing for the Remembrance Day Parade

### FOR SALE

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**Carol Service**

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 Tea/Mulled Wine/Mince Pies at 3.30 pm  
 Carol Service at 4.00 pm  
*All Welcome*

Artweeks is hosting The Christmas Art Trail this year online and off - for more information go to

<https://www.artweeks.org/festival/theme/2021/christmas-art-trail>



**CPRE Oxfordshire Flooding and Pollution Report - a survey of Oxfordshire's Town & Parish Councils, 2021**

Findings show that at least 17% of towns & parishes in Oxfordshire experience flooding problems and at least 20% of towns & parishes experience issues with sewage/sewerage infrastructure.

CPRE Oxfordshire wants to see:

- Thames Water setting out clear measures to address the issues raised in this report, including targets and investment commitments.
- Local MPs supporting the Sewage (Inland Waters) Bill and the Environment Bill to ensure water companies are legally bound to stop discharging raw sewage into the ocean and rivers.
- Oxfordshire Plan 2050 to ensure all new developments demonstrate that their associated infrastructure will either maintain or improve water quality, not add to the risk of flooding, and be in place before the site is occupied.
- The river Thames to achieve Bathing Water designation.

CPRE Oxfordshire has produced an interactive map highlighting where the issues are, view the map and download the report from our website: [www.cpreoxon.org.uk](http://www.cpreoxon.org.uk)

**Did your Parish Council respond?** If not, you can let us know what flooding and/or sewage issues your neighbourhood is facing. Contact [campaign@cpreoxon.org.uk](mailto:campaign@cpreoxon.org.uk)



**Marcham Second Hand  
 0-5yrs Clothes & Toys  
 Sale**

**When: 9am-11am Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> Dec**  
**Where: Marcham Village Centre**  
 Barrow Close, OX13 6TY

**What will be on sale:**

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  - Toys
  - Children's books
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*A great opportunity to grab some bargains before Christmas for yourself or maybe even a gift for friends or family.*

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**INDEPENDENT DIABETES TRUST**



PO Box 294 Northampton NN1 4XS Telephone: 01604 622837

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

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

We are happy to send out these, free of charge, to any one, just contact IDDT on 01604 622837 or email [enquiries@iddtinternational.org](mailto:enquiries@iddtinternational.org)  
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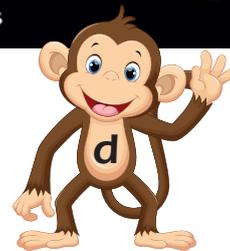
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Vale of White Horse District Council launched the new White Horse Community lottery earlier this year. 51 local groups 'good causes' have already registered to join the scheme. Most of these are already benefiting from the income the scheme helps you generate. This income can be spent on anything that will benefit the group and is not restricted to capital costs, as many other funds are.

Firstly, it's free to join, and is a fun way for players to support the good causes they care about the most in their community. Players can choose which good cause they want to support for every ticket purchased.

Tickets cost £1 each and for every ticket sold, 50p goes directly to the good cause and 10p goes into the general White Horse Community Fund, which will go towards supporting local organisation and community initiatives across the district.

It is a weekly draw (every Saturday) and players can win a variety of prizes, including a weekly jackpot of £25,000, £250 or three extra tickets. There are also extra bolt-on prizes that can be won, for example a chance to win £1,000 John Lewis vouchers

To understand more please visit:

<https://www.whitehorselottery.co.uk/good-causes/apply>

There's also a page for FAQs <https://www.whitehorselottery.co.uk/good-causes/faq>

Or contact our community enablement team for a chat [communityenablement@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:communityenablement@southandvale.gov.uk)

## Stay Safe Online

Here are some top tips that will make your life easier and your online accounts more secure:

### 1: Creating memorable passwords

A good way to create strong, memorable passwords is by using three random words. But remember, don't use words that can be guessed (like your pet's name). You can include numbers and symbols if you need to. For example, "RedPantsTree4!"

### 2: Saving passwords in your browser

Saving your password in your browser means letting your web browser (such as Chrome, Safari or Edge) remember your password for you.

This can help:

- make sure you do not lose or forget your passwords
  - protect you against some cyber crime, such as fake websites
- It is safer than using weak passwords, or using the same password in more than one place.

### 3: Email account passwords

If a hacker gets into your email account, they could:

- reset your other online account passwords
- access personal information you have saved about yourself or your business

Your email password should be strong and different from all your other passwords. This will make it harder to crack or guess.

For more of the government's latest advice on how to stay secure online, visit the Cyber Aware website: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware>



## Marcham Centre

### Marcham Centre Sign

You will have already noticed the new sign standing proudly at the entrance to Marcham Centre. Designed by local artist



**Suzanne**

**O'Driscoll**, the sign will be officially unveiled at 10:00 a.m. on **Saturday 11th December** at a short outdoor event. Key people from the Vale of the White Horse District Council have been invited, as have our local councillors Richard and Catherine Webber, representatives of the Parish Council and the organisations which are featured in the design, as well as Marcham school, Marcham pre-school and Little Angels nursery. It is not the official opening of the Centre as this has been delayed until at least next spring when Covid is (hopefully) less of an issue. Villagers are welcome to come and watch, while respecting social distancing.

### Public Meeting and AGM: Friday 3rd December 7:30pm in the Village Hall

Marcham Community Group is holding a Public Meeting and short AGM at 7:30 pm on **Friday 3rd December**, in Marcham Centre – our first AGM in the new hall! Everyone is welcome – please join us to hear the latest news about Marcham Centre and future plans. MCG members will be able to vote on election of trustees and other MCG matters. Please help us by taking out (or renewing) MCG membership. Your support is really important so that we can meet the widest range of community needs. Please contact [jim.asher@btinternet.com](mailto:jim.asher@btinternet.com) for further details and if you are interested in helping us in any way.

### Upcoming events at Marcham Centre

- **Friday 10th December Quiz Night** (adults only) 7.30pm start £10 per team, max 6 people per team
- **Friday 17th December Family Christmas Disco** 6.30pm to 9.00 pm £1 per child (each child will receive a gift) Email [coordinator@marchamcentre.org](mailto:coordinator@marchamcentre.org) or phone/text to 07502 267342 to register your child. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
- **New Year's Eve Party** 7.30 p.m. to 12.30 a.m. Dance to band 'Gaffer Tape'. Tickets (£5 per adult) available from the village shop and the Marcham Centre bar. Please note the bar will not be open on New Year's Eve to anyone not in possession of a dance ticket and entrance is strictly to those 18 years of age and over.
- **Saturday 5th February Burns Night** - date for your diary (details in January edition).

Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, Marcham OX13 6TY  
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**MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS**

This time of year is one full of celebration and excitement. So let us start by celebrating with and congratulating Katherine Johnson and Marion Belcher who have both received their 25 years of service award from Oxfordshire County Council. They are hardworking, dedicated members of our team and have given so much to the children of Marcham over their 25 years here.



Other news worth celebrating includes the Year 3 and 4 pupils being able to go on a visit to the Ashmolean Museum on Monday 15th November. Staff were impressed by the amount they were able to recall and remember from their learning as they looked at the artefacts. It was clear that they enjoyed the experience and gained even more insight into life during the Stone Age.

The whole school was involved in showcasing some various fantastic spotty, dotty outfits instead of their school uniform to mark the Children in Need Celebrations on Friday 19th November. We raised £164 on the day. Thank you to everyone who participated and donated.

And it won't be long before it will be Christmas! Key Stage 1 pupils are busy learning songs for their Christmas Shows and are already getting into the Christmas spirit. We have Christmas dinners arranged for 14th and 15th December and Key Stage 2 are hoping to celebrate at All Saints Church on 16th December at 6pm. We will be able to share news from our Christmas events in the next issue.

Lastly, some of you might be reading this and wondering if you might soon join the Marcham Primary School Community – which will definitely be something to celebrate when the time comes.

**To any prospective parents wishing to find out more about our school**

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, we are unable to run tours and/or meetings for prospective parents during the school day for those looking to apply to start with us in Sept 2022, or for an in-year transfer should you be moving to the village or local area.

We hope we saw many of you on one of our Open Evenings on Wednesday 24th November, 6:30 -7:30pm

or Thursday 25th November, 5:00 – 6:00pm. If you were not able to attend, please do not worry – there is a video tour on the website in which you can meet the Headteacher and Reception Teacher. It includes lots of information and a beautiful insight to our school. So please, take a look: <https://www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk/school-admissions>

If you want to know more, you can contact us on 01865 391448 or email [office.3235@marcham.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3235@marcham.oxon.sch.uk)

To see more about what the school has been up to go to <https://www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk/class-pages/>  
**VIV HUTCHINSON, HEADTEACHER**  
[www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk)

**We asked Katherine Johnson and Marion Belcher about their last 25 years serving the community at Marcham Primary School.**

**When did you start at Marcham school (and in what role?)**

*Katherine:* I started teaching at Marcham in September 1995 in the reception and year 1 class. At that time, I was a class teacher but became a Governor during my first year and also 'Senior Teacher' at the end of my first year.

*Marion:* My son Seb was at the school when I joined for a couple of months as a helper (or Teaching Assistant) in the Morland Class in November 1996. In January 1997, my daughter Alex joined as a 'Rising Five' and I moved across to my role as a Lunchtime Supervisor.

**What is your fondest memory from the last 25 years?**

*Katherine:* That is a difficult one – but I think my fondest memories are 3 musical occasions (apart from all the in-school concerts, shows and carol services). The school was part of a massed Oxfordshire choir at the Schools' Proms at the Royal Albert Hall on 2 occasions. They were both fantastic occasions and the children we took were amazing, sang beautifully and enjoyed the whole atmosphere. I was very proud of them. The other was a similar occasion in Birmingham Symphony Hall to celebrate a big anniversary of the Oxfordshire County Music Service.

*Marion:* Gosh, I have loads! I have many happy memories because I went to the school and so did both of my children. I guess that is my fondest memory - the years I worked in the school while my children went there and seeing them every day.

**What has changed about Marcham School over the last 25 years?**

*Katherine:* I think the biggest change is the size of the school. When I first started there were only 3 or 4 classes and I think we dropped to under 90 children at one point. It is great to now be a one form entry school.

*Marion:* It has got so much bigger. The building, the number of children and the number of staff.

**What has stayed the same?**

*Katherine:* The fantastic children and the sense of community - not just within the school but between the school, church and other parts of the village. Also, the dedication of all the staff and Governors that I have worked with to provide fabulous opportunities for the children of Marcham.

*Marion:* The feel of the school. And the school hall in which I work - that part of the building has stayed the same for the children to eat their lunch, and come together in. Although there is a great new kitchen!

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### Are People Still Interested in Gardens?



I was asked only last week, having been writing these pieces since 1998, and only missing one deadline (when my mother passed), "Are people still interested in doing anything with their gardens, apart from putting down decking, that often becomes a slippery death trap when damp, or putting down hard standing for off-road parking?"

In my experience, few people don't appreciate the great outdoors, but the numbers are growing that could be considered in various ways, to be disconnected from it. Giving rise at times, I notice, to a lack of imagination with what to grow, or even fears that gardening is hard. I've seen inexperienced gardeners take on new gardens, with huge bouts of vigour, and experiencing success and disappointment in equal measure; whilst experienced gardeners would be happy with the ratio of 50% success and 50% perceived failure. When starting out though, even the slightest amount of disappointment, or perceived failure, can make gardening newbies give up, and down tools.

It's always worth pushing through and persisting during this initial apprenticeship. Go on, have a second go, a third, or even, dare I say it, a fourth go. As many goes as needed is my approach, and instead of seeing barriers, start to see opportunity, everywhere.

So, no, I don't think people are disinterested in gardens and gardening. They just need encouragement and clearly defined pathways, to what is perceived as successful gardening, and the inevitable green fingers will soon arise. That encouragement I mention, in part, comes from us established, experienced gardeners

It's very often an underpaid and under valued profession, with many who work in it not believing they can charge good rates and earn a good living from it. Conversely, I've had many potential clients come my way who don't like paying gardeners good rates, and saving their money for the other trades. If you are starting out in gardening, though, and speak to an experienced gardener for advice, it'll soon be obvious they are worth their weight in Marigolds.

**Happy Gardening!**

**Stuart Mabbutt**

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

### MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

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Marcham preschool are involved in a research trial to assess and develop mathematical teaching in the Early Years... this IS very exciting and the children are enjoying some of the new opportunities we have been developing....

If you'd like to be involved or find out more about Marcham Preschool please get in touch.

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**Little Angels**  
Marcham

Little Angels is welcoming Santa to their Grotto



on **Wednesday 15th December**. It is open to **all children** to come along and meet Santa

On **Thursday 23rd December** there will be Carols Around the Tree outside the Nursery, wrap up and come and sing along. **Everyone Welcome**



If you are interested in securing a place for your child please contact us:

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### Move Together

As winter approaches, it's vital that we can keep the most vulnerable people in Oxfordshire moving as we recover from the COVID-19 crisis. Hundreds of people across Oxfordshire are already benefiting, with participants saying, "It's the best I've felt in years" and "I have increased my walking and started to feel more positive about things."

**Find out more today:**

[www.getoxfordshireactive.org/move-together](http://www.getoxfordshireactive.org/move-together)

*A poppy makes us think.*

*A poppy makes us remember.*

*A poppy represents all the battle fields where lives ended.*

*A poppy makes us thankful for the lives we have today.*

*So many brave men, women, children and animals.*

*They gave their lives, worked hard, helped the country and supported their families.*

*We live our lives today remembering those who sacrificed their lives for us.*

*A poppy makes us think.*

*A poppy makes us remember.*

*A poppy represents all the battle fields where lives ended.*

*A poppy makes us thankful for the lives we have today.*

MADNews is online: [www.madnews.co.uk](http://www.madnews.co.uk)



## EVENTS



### Order your Locally Grown Christmas Tree

All trees are grown right here on Collins Farm and cut fresh to order. Zero carbon footprint, zero waste.

Order now online and collect on one of the following days:

Sat 27th Nov 10.00 - 16.00  
Sat 4th Dec 10.00 - 16.00  
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2021 Prices	
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10/11FT NORWAY SPRUCE	£120

ORDER HERE: [FARM-FIT.CO.UK/CHRISTMAS-TREES](http://FARM-FIT.CO.UK/CHRISTMAS-TREES)



BOTHY VINEYARD



### Christmas Mini Market Saturday 11 December 10-5

For the perfect Christmas Gift –go local this year!  
Wines, beers, chutneys and jams, samosas, hot street food, cookies and much more.

Bothy shop also open Saturday or by appointment

01865 390067 office@bothyvineyard.co.uk

[www.bothyvineyard.co.uk](http://www.bothyvineyard.co.uk)

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## FOOD AND DRINK



FIELD | FAMILY | FORK

## Outstanding Christmas Meat!

Don't forget to place your Christmas meat order online or with our expert butchers at the butchery counter!

Kingston Road | Frilford | Nr. Abingdon | OX13 5HB  
[www.milletsfarmcentre.com](http://www.milletsfarmcentre.com)

## Charlotte Jane Cakes

Established 2011



### Bespoke Wedding Cakes

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Charlotte Jane Cakes

**ST LUKE'S CHURCH, GARFORD**

It has been a busy month at St Luke's. All the interior paintwork is completed. Frilford Decorators did an amazing job. *Thank you.* "Team Clean" swiftly followed in, and with Carolyn's guidance, biscuits and coffee we set about every inch of the church and left it gleaming.

Highlight of the month was Nick's hugely well attended first service in Garford. Nick delivered a beautiful service by our war memorial, supported by Andy Viney who placed the poppy wreath. We retired to the village hall where Carolyn, Neil, Jackie and Debbie had organised a "social" so that everyone could meet our new vicar. What a great start to a new era!

*Thank you to all who helped and all who came to join in.*



**Mostly Books** will be open till 7.30pm each Thursday in December and we're excited to bring you details of a few of our special guests who will be joining us. Do pop these dates in your diary and come and see us for some fizz and nibbles as you shop. You can meet fantastic authors and illustrators for personalised bookish gift ideas and we'll have live acoustic music!



Mostly Books has won the Muddy Stilletos Award for BEST BOOKSHOP in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire – so if you want to find out why, pop in and see for yourself at 36 Stert Street, Abingdon OX14 3JP  
[mostly-books.co.uk](http://mostly-books.co.uk)



**CONNECTING COMMUNITIES**

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**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

**WHAT ARE THE RULES AROUND BURNING WOOD?**

The other day a load of logs, dried for 2 years, were dumped on our driveway ready to stack in the garage for our wood-burner. I imagine the same thing is happening up and down the UK, but the question is what are the rules around burning wood now?

There is nothing more enjoyable than to sit in front of a roaring wood fire, but now we know that burning wood, most particularly wet or green wood, produces air pollution. We are told that by 2016, home wood burning was the second-largest source of particle pollution emitted in London. By 2018, it was responsible for nearly half the emissions across Europe.

*So, does that mean that we have to stop burning wood and throw away our wood burning fires?*

Wood and coal is being phased out under a new law, which became law in May 2021. It states that wood that is sold for domestic use in volumes of 2 cubic metres or more, now must have a moisture content of less than 20%. So, this means that wood has to be air dried and stored under cover for at least a year, and better still for 2 years, to ensure that the moisture content is well below 20%. Kiln dried wood is even better as it gives out very little moisture.

So, at present, we can burn very dry wood in our wood burners but not green wood. We have to keep an eye on this for the future.

**COUNCILLORS BACK EXPANSION OF OXFORD STATION AND OXFORD BROOKES ACCOMMODATION.**

The planning committee of Oxford City Council has backed Network Rail's £69m plan to build a fifth platform and new entrance at Oxford Station, paving the way for Network Rail to bid for funding from the Department for Transport. Councillors approved a prior approval application, meaning full planning permission will still be needed. Councillors also approved Oxford Brookes University's plans to demolish and rebuild student housing at its Clive Booth Student Village in Headington - with the development expected to increase the number of students living at the site from around 640 now to around 1,200.

**EPI-PENS COULD BE INSTALLED IN PUBLIC PLACES**

A report from independent advisory body the Commission on Human Medicines has recommended that EpiPens and other adrenaline auto-injectors be placed in public places, such as restaurants, in the same way that defibrillators are increasingly being installed for public use, to help save the lives of people suffering from potentially deadly allergic reactions. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency is to send the proposal out for public consultation.

*The next 4 weekly tips to fight the Climate Emergency*

- 1) **Clean Green recycling** This is an area where many people can get confused and can inadvertently contaminate a whole load of waste. Here is a quick list of what should not be recycled but commonly is: oven glassware and wine glasses, greasy pizza boxes, coffee cups, used kitchen rolls and tissues, nappies (!!), plastic bags, soft plastic packaging (thin plastic packaging for fruit and veg snacks etc), cling film and crisp packets. If you are unsure if a material can be recycled, then quickly check the label and if it doesn't say then don't recycle it, to prevent it from contaminating your load. Remember that other items such as textiles, electronics and food waste can be recycled through separate processes.
- 2) **Rinse it** Any residue food or drink left on the recycling is contamination. If there is sufficient contamination in a load then it will all be rejected. Simply rinse out your cans, bottles and containers before putting them in the recycling to remove this residue. It doesn't take long and it will help to ensure you recycle as efficiently as possible, reduce your carbon impact and save the

council money by reducing the need for unnecessary sorting. To save water, rinse them using the left-over water from your washing up. Make sure it dries before putting it in the recycling as water contaminates any paper/cardboard in there.

- 3) **Consider what you eat** Why not take the challenge and go vegetarian (or even vegan) for a week. Meat consumption contributes significantly to our global carbon footprint, and a recent study (<https://www.nu3.com/c/food-carbon-footprint-index-2018/>) found that in the UK switching to a non-animal diet can reduce your carbon footprint by 163.86 kg CO2e per year! Check out the National Vegetarian Week ([nationalvegetarianweek.org/recipes/](http://nationalvegetarianweek.org/recipes/)) website for a selection of recipe ideas to get you started.
- 4) Remember to use in season, local food - To assist in reducing the impact of your food on the climate, you are advised to eat what is in season and locally grown. Avoiding air freighting and greenhouses when buying your food can reduce the footprint of your food by 10%, so that little extra thought into your food can go a long way.

**ONE PLANET LIVING ABINGDON**

Did you know that we have a Climate Emergency Centre in the café under the Museum in Abingdon? Go and visit it, enjoy a cup of coffee and talk to the volunteers about all the work they are doing.

*Can I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a happy New Year!*

**CATHERINE WEBBER** Cllr VWHDC

District Councillor for Marcham Ward  
Phone: 07357 464699 or 01235 534001  
or [catherine.webber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:catherine.webber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

*Blah blah blah – Does it serve a purpose?*

The numbers of relatively new arrivals to the Climate Emergency issue in recent weeks and years has been truly staggering. In the past week alone, I have been asked to sign up to several new local and regional pressure groups. They are all very unhappy with the rate of progress towards climate targets. It's not always clear how they propose we get there, but I am sympathetic with almost all of them.

That we still have not scrapped plans for a new Cumbrian coal mine or developing a new oil field off Shetland is very disappointing. Locally, trying to marry the carbon output of all our planned road building or the proposed Thames Water reservoir with our own local carbon targets is hard to justify. I am as frustrated and anxious as anyone.

Almost no one believes that COP26 has solved the problem. Most people are frustrated at the gaps in what has been agreed and wanted more from the event. But that surely is the point, COP was never an event it was part of a process. The Paris COP's main ambition of getting us down to a 1.5% temperature increase remains the target. COP26 was ever only the next step. The size of the step may disappoint many but what matters now is the size of the steps that still need to be taken to achieve the target and can we all agree to take them in time.

On the plus side, there are people in this country and around the world who have been working day in, day out to try to make COP 26 a success. Those efforts will continue. Meanwhile, the protests and the pressure will continue to build. You and I can continue to adapt our lifestyles – less flying, less meat eating, moving to EVs and the rest whilst calling on our Government (and our local councils) to strive harder.

Greta is right to be angry with Blah, blah, blah, but even Blah, blah, blah can play a part.

As long as it continues, the issue is in the headlines and the

pressure will be maintained. The pressure on the negotiators and representatives at COP26 has been relentless and has been an important part of the process. Those nations and organisations resisting making necessary changes are being increasingly exposed. Having spent the last 50 years not talking enough about a problem many knew was there, some Blah, blah, blah is welcome.

**HIF1 Didcot Thames link road**

The consultation period for the HIF1 Rd has been extended into 2022 giving people the chance to voice their opinions and suggestions. It is a massive proposal with different issues all along its length. The planning application is aimed to be heard by the OCC Planning Committee in late Spring 2022. Given that the applicant is OCC Highways, it will be important to maintain the independence of OCC's Planning system.

**Thames Water Reservoir**

Both County and Vale Councils have come out against this proposal at least/until the case for need has been proved and been thoroughly tested by independent scientific and hydrological experts. There is also a demand to see the methodology used by TW in calculating the carbon output of building and running the facility.

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

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or 01235 534001

**MP'S REPORT**

I have no second job or outside earnings, so there are no allegations about me breaking the lobbying rules or using my parliamentary office for activities that earn me money on the side. But, while I'm not directly affected by the allegations being made at members of all parties, I want to defend my (still relatively new) profession. People who break the rules should be punished, but the vast majority of us have obeyed all the rules. No-one wins when MPs themselves push the line that we've got to be restrained from chasing outside money so that we focus on our constituencies; almost all of us have been focusing on our constituencies seven days a week. Talented people are already put off becoming MPs by the long hours, abuse, increasing personal risk and the association with the expenses scandal which most of us were not involved in – the tone of the current debate is making this worse.

I attended several activities to mark Remembrance Day this year, beginning with laying a poppy on a GWR train on its way to London on the 11th November. I also attended 2 very moving services in Wallingford and Didcot on Remembrance Sunday. Both services were, as ever, poignant. In the wake of Sir David Amess' murder, there was an increased police presence for me and other MPs around the country, which was a little unsettling, but they were excellent all day.

Some quick updates on a few local issues. I know people are concerned about the number of houses that will be agreed by council leaders as part of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050. I made clear when briefed by them that there is no appetite whatsoever for some of the large numbers being talked about given how many houses South and Vale have already had and the lack of infrastructure development alongside these. On the reservoir proposal, I have written supporting GARD's core arguments that Thames Water have failed to consult the local community properly and failed to demonstrate the need for it. On my Grove Station campaign, we unfortunately weren't successful in the latest round of funding – only 13/89 bids were – but we've received feedback and I will keep going until we are.

On the business break-ins in the Faringdon area, I have visited some of the businesses affected and taken up the issue with several people, including our Police and Crime Commissioner, who will visit soon with the head of the relevant crime taskforce. On the shortage of GP appointments and medical services relative to our

population, I am meeting Sajid Javid, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, to discuss our needs and hope to hold a debate in parliament on this shortly.

If I don't get to write for this publication before the year ends, have a very good Christmas and a Happy New Year. As ever, you can contact me via [david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk](mailto: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](mailto:david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk)

**Flexicare is an Oxfordshire based charity providing a home sitting service for families with severely disabled children.**



Flexicare is fun, friendly, joyous, exhilarating, fulfilling (sometimes exhausting!) and always different. The team is comprised of a Manager, Office Manager, two other Co-ordinators and a cohort of volunteers. Hours of work are fully flexible, designed to fit around your existing commitments. If you believe in a learning journey where small steps make big strides, this may be the role for you. Email [admin@flexicare.org](mailto:admin@flexicare.org) to outline why, or for further details. Closing date 12:00 noon 6th December 2021, interviews week beginning 13th December 2021.

**Flexicare are currently recruiting a part-time Co-ordinator:**

- Flexible hours (up to approx. 15 per week – weekend and evening work will be involved) to fit around your life demands.
- £13.89 per hour (pay rise pending)
- Full training, mentoring and support provided
- Pension scheme, including employer contribution
- 28 days' annual leave (pro rata)
- Fuel costs and travel time reimbursement

**Duties include**

- Carrying out sits in family's homes
- 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/paramedic background
  - is prepared to work flexibly (including some evenings and weekends)
  - is a car driver with access to a car (essential)
- Flexicare (Oxford and Abingdon), registered Charity no. 1172635.  
[www.flexicare.org](http://www.flexicare.org) 61, St Gabriel's, Wantage, OX12 8FL.  
 Tel 01865 321881



**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**

# ALL SAINTS' & ST. LUKES CHURCHES

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

**Christmas Craft Morning**  
 Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December  
 9.30am – 12.30pm  
 Come along and have a go at making a wreath for your door, a table decoration, candle holders and more. You do not need to be artistic or crafty—there will be people to help you create something amazing.  
 All are welcome.  
 Refreshments will be provided.

**In the Light of the Dark**  
 Readings, poems, prayers and music  
 All Saints  
 Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>  
 December 2021  
 at 6 pm  
*I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places Isaiah 45:3*

**TIDDLYPEEPS**  
 CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION!  
 10AM & 1PM TUESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER  
 AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH\*  
 \* To book a place please email [tiddlypeeps@allsaintsmarcham.org](mailto:tiddlypeeps@allsaintsmarcham.org)

**CRIB SERVICE**  
 Christmas Eve  
 4pm, All Saints'

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December  
 6pm, All Saints'  
**CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT**  
 Join us for mulled wine and mince pies after the service

**Daytime Carol Service**  
 Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2pm  
 Followed by a Christmas Tea  
 It would help us if you could book for this event to help us with catering, but all are welcome, even if they have not booked. Email [info@allsaintsmarcham.org](mailto:info@allsaintsmarcham.org) to book.

Revd Nick Weldon writes...

This message went round our family Whats App group last December... *"No Nativity this year. The Wise Men face a travel ban. The shepherds have been furloughed. The Inn Keeper has shut under tier 3 regulations. Herod doesn't do Zoom, and the Angels can't fly after over-sanitising their wings. Santa won't be working as he would break the rule of 6 with Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Donner and Blitzen. As for Rudolf with that red nose, he's isolating and waiting for a test."* That was about as fun as last Christmas got. It looks like things will be better this year, so at All Saints and St Luke's we are planning a full Christmas programme of events and services to celebrate the coming of Christ. Some services will also be available remotely. Please check the website for details. Oddly, though, there were some things that made last Christmas better for me in the midst of the restrictions and cancelations. I really missed friends and family, but I didn't miss the travelling. I really missed the big carol services, but I didn't miss candle wax dripping down my hand and endless verses of The First Nowell. The turkey was smaller, the diary was emptier, there was more time to watch the Snowman and the Great Escape. Granted, it was a lonelier Christmas, even lonelier than ever for many people, and that was really sad. But maybe it was a year when the light and hope of true Christmas shone a little brighter with less in its way. So I'm praying that as the festivities take off again this December in whatever form possible, the true essence of Christmas is not crowded out again... that God broke into this dark world in the person of the Baby Jesus, bringing light and peace, healing and hope. So order the big turkey, dig out last year's crackers, and invite the family round again. But don't over-crowd the stable so "no ear may hear his coming". Because, "where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in."

Also at All Saints'....  
**Christmas Eve, 11pm:**  
*Late Night Holy Communion*  
**Christmas Day, 10am:**  
*Christmas Family Communion*

**Christmas at St. Luke's**  
 Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December, 4pm: **Carol Service**  
 Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December, 6pm: **Carols on the Green**  
 Christmas Eve, 2.30pm: **Crib Service**  
 Christmas Day, 9am: **Christmas Communion**

**Our regular services are as follows:**  
 Sunday 10am: Morning service at All Saints'  
 Sunday 11am-12pm: Open church at St. Luke's, Garford  
 Sunday 6pm: Evening service at All Saints  
 Wednesday 10.30am: Midweek Holy Communion at Duffield Place

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