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July/August 2025 Vol 47 No. 7/8

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Hi Everyone

Have a glorious summer.
We'll be back in September.
Cheers

Kay

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DEADLINES

All entries including articles, notices, reports and advertising:

5pm 15th of the month

ADDITIONAL COPIES

These are available from Marcham Village Shop. 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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James Plumb

Tel: 07779 386205

Email: james.plumb@oxfordshire.gov.uk

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Marcham and Shippon

Robert Clegg, 42 Harding Way, Marcham,

OX13 6FJ

Tel: 07784225290

Email: robert.clegg@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

For other representatives see page 18 or go to www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

This month's cover photo

Georgie and Buttercup

by

Alayna McDowell

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION

Central Government in December last year published plans for examining and modifying the way local councils work. It invited the Vale of White Horse District Council and other similar councils, to submit proposals for how new councils could operate. Currently Oxfordshire County Council manages education, social care, highways, fire service, libraries, and trading standards as well as some waste disposal and planning matters. The Vale of White Horse District Council manages planning applications, environmental matters, waste collections and recycling, housing and licensing as well as collecting the council tax. The current thinking is to merge these services so that one authority is responsible for all local government functions within a given area. Various boundaries for a new area have been considered and the suggestion now preferred by the Vale of White Horse District Council, are two new councils of Vale of White Horse/South Oxfordshire/West Berkshire, and the other of Oxford City/Cherwell/West Oxfordshire. Consultation on the Vale's proposal runs until 16th July. Information is on the website of Vale of White Horse District Council or at **twocouncils.org**. Other Councils such as Oxford City are also putting forward their preferred boundary areas, so look out for their consultation too.

MARCHAM CEMETERY

The Parish Council has formed a working group to plan for a new burial area. The current available space in the cemetery is reducing, and in order to prepare for budgeting for next year, a clear idea of exactly what is required needs to be prepared. The group will oversee the planning and implementation of a new area, to ensure that it meets the needs of the expanding community, and complies with burial legislation. The group comprises 3 parish councillors from Marcham, 1 representative from Frilford Parish Meeting, and 3 members of the public. If you are interested in helping plan for a new area for burials, and would like to be one of the 3 members of the public serving on this group, then please contact the Clerk to the Council whose details are below.

GRASS CUTTING, OVERHANGING TREES AND HEDGES

It is that time of year when we are all out cutting grass, trimming hedges, and managing our gardens. Please can residents who live adjacent to public roads and footpaths, kindly keep any growth which is overhanging, cut back. The rural paths can become quite dark and soaked, when low wet branches are overhanging. As Marcham village grows, more and more people are walking the paths, and it is therefore important that they be kept clear so that they remain light, and are able to dry out. The Parish Council has a contractor who strims any growth from the floor, but help from residents is needed to help keep the overhanging growth from their gardens trimmed.

The Vale of White Horse District Council provides a successful recycling and waste collection service for all its residents in the district. In addition the recycling centre at Drayton is open 8.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. 7 days a week. If visiting the Drayton site, please remember that a booking scheme is in operation for non household DIY waste so please visit Drayton household waste recycling centre | Oxfordshire County Council for more information, as you may need to book a slot for your visit.

Please do not fly tip grass and garden waste on highway verges, private land, paths, or any recreation area, as such action interferes with the enjoyment of these areas.

ACCOUNTS

Each year the Parish Council produces an Annual Governance and Accountability Return which is reviewed by an external auditor. The information for the period ending 31st March 2025 is on the website of the Parish Council, and is available to the public in person by prior arrangement with the Clerk.

HOWARD CORNISH ROAD -

SALVATION ARMY TEXTILE BANK

The Parish Council has considered a complaint that there are numerous sacks of clothes left around the textile bank, leaving the area unsightly, and bags which become wet in periods of rainfall. It has contacted the Salvation Army for advice about what could be done. In the meantime, the Parish Council would ask residents to avoid leaving clothing sacks on the ground around the textile bank. If you find the clothing bank full, then please take them to the next nearest bank, either at Millets Farm, or to Tesco Extra, Marcham Road. To report a full Clothing Bank, Salvation Army Trading can be contacted by email at **helpline@satcol.org** or by telephoning **0845 458 1812**.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

CONSIDERED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

P25/V0730/HH Single storey front extension, alterations to the elevations of the existing house. Changes to the driveway access, and treatment along the street frontage, at Trinafour, Abingdon Road. Council had some concerns regarding ensuring adequate surface water drainage in view of the loss of permeable land, the height and materials proposed for the construction of a new wall and securing adequate vision splays.

P25/V1030/HH Single storey rear extension at 1 Leas Lane. Council had no objections to these proposed works.

DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council is Monday 14th July, 2025 at 7.30p.m. in the village hall. **Please check the Council's website in case arrangements change.**

Clerk to the Council:

Mrs. L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Road

Tel: 01865 391833

clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

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MRS HUTCHINSON: CELEBRATING 18 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP AT MARCHAM CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

As the school year draws to a close, so too does an extraordinary chapter in the life of our school. After 18 years of devoted service, Mrs. Viv Hutchinson, our much-loved Headteacher, is stepping down – leaving behind a legacy of compassion, values, and quiet determination that has shaped our school community. In preparation for this article, Giraffe Class (Year 6) interviewed Mrs Hutchinson and their writing has been used to share some of her favourite memories and thoughts about Marcham.



Mrs Hutchinson knew she wanted to be a teacher from an early age and following advice from her own Headteacher, trained in Norwich as a Middle School teacher. Time passed and she moved to Oxfordshire (close enough, but not too close, to her childhood home of Birmingham). Once here, she regularly drove through Marcham, becoming very curious about what the village (and school) might hold. Seeing a job advertised in 2007, Mrs Hutchinson applied and in her words “amazingly got it”. She brought with her a clear vision and since then has been working tirelessly to create ‘The Best School in the World’.

On her first day at Marcham, Mrs Hutchinson remembers spending time in each classroom (only 4) getting to know the children. She recalls that one of her favourite memories was during that first week when “A new shed was delivered into the playground and I asked the children not to touch the fragile new delivery. Amazingly, no one touched it. I was so pleased and knew that this was going to be a great place to be.”

Throughout the 18 years Mrs Hutchinson has never stopped creating a community where everyone is welcomed and encouraged to grow and learn and, most importantly, to believe in themselves. One of her greatest strengths is her ability to be ambitious for all within her school – both staff and children. Her memories and stories all link to individual children who have shaped her time here at Marcham.

She has seen countless milestones: from new curriculums to new buildings, from COVID restrictions to increased numbers of classes, from chalkboards (only 1) to interactive whiteboards. She introduced new initiatives with thoughtfulness and care, always balancing innovation with the needs of the school. But perhaps her most lasting impact cannot be measured by results alone – it is



found in the countless moments of kindness, encouragement, and quiet resilience that defines her leadership.

One legacy that will live on, even after Mrs Hutchinson leaves us, started in 2012 when during an Easter Egg hunt a small boy called Harry, took a bite out of a clay egg! Every year, without fail, before hunting around the school grounds, Mrs Hutchinson tells this very story reiterating many times “DO NOT eat the clay eggs”! She recalls “I can remember Harry with clay all around his mouth, it always makes me chuckle!”.

As we say farewell to Mrs. Hutchinson, we do so with enormous gratitude. Her influence has been far-reaching and memories of many of the villagers of Marcham will include Mrs Hutchinson. While she may be stepping down from the role of Headteacher, we know that her love of learning, her passion for children, and her unwavering commitment to making a difference will continue to guide her next steps – wherever they may lead.

On behalf of the entire school community we say: Thank you, Mrs. Hutchinson. For your 18 years of leadership, your warmth, your wisdom, and your deep belief in every one of us. You will be missed by the whole school community. You have left a legacy of love and learning that will carry us forward for years to come.



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Here's a quick update on the PTFA's recent fundraising efforts and what the money has been spent on!

We were excited to take part in the **Big Marcham Weekend** for the first time this year. Thanks to your wonderful support, our junk crafting, face jewels, and doughnut stall raised a fantastic **£130**. It was great to see so many of you there!

Our school disco was also a huge hit, raising over **£600**. A big thank you to all who attended, and an extra shout out to **DJ Piddy** for spinning the decks and making it such a memorable evening!

Did you know that PTFA funds support our much-loved **school garden**? It's a space enjoyed by all the children, and we want to keep it thriving. If you can spare a little time to help in the garden, we'd love to hear from you (MarchamPTA@gmail.com).

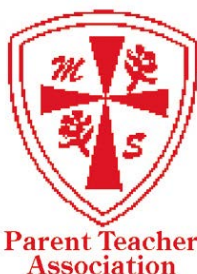
This past year, the money we've raised has supported the **little things** that enrich the classroom experience – such as books, craft materials, and match funding for Year 5's Viking/Anglo-Saxon day – as well as a new interactive Promethean whiteboard to promote active engagement and collaboration in the classroom.

Looking ahead, please save the date for our **School Summer Fête** on **Friday, 4th July 6-8pm!** (not Thursday as previously shared on Parent Mail!) This event is open to everyone not just those with kids at the school. Entry is £1.50 per adult and children are free! We will have external stall holders, games, food provided by Thirsty Café, ice cream, bouncy castle and much more. You can also enter our summer raffle with prizes provided by Blenheim Palace, Oxford Wet 'n Wild, Loose Cannon Brewery, Abingdon Snakes and Ladder, Waddesdon Manor, Birdland, Whitehorse Leisure Centre, Cotswold Wildlife Park to name a few. We're also collecting prizes for our popular tombola and have placed a donation box in the school reception – any contributions would be hugely appreciated.

The PTFA Committee is already busy behind the scenes planning a fantastic day. We'll need plenty of helping hands to set up, run stalls, or tidy up afterwards – even an hour makes a big difference.

Thank you again for your ongoing support. We can't wait to celebrate with you in July!

Warm regards, **THE PTFA COMMITTEE**



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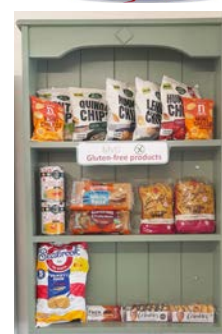
Happy Birthday to Marcham Village Shop

On 30th July we will have been supporting the local community with the help of yourselves and our lovely volunteers for 13 years. **Congratulations everyone and thank you for your continued support**



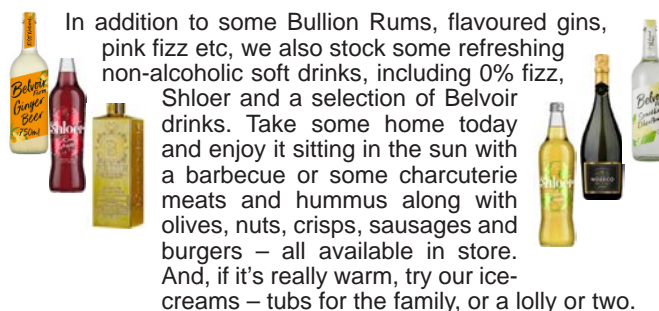
NEW – Gluten-free products

Having now installed the new chiller, we have rearranged the back wall of the shop to make it more accessible and coordinated. In addition, we have introduced a gluten-free section above the ice-cream freezer. Some of the items that we have in stock include pasta, soups, snacks and bakery items. If there are other items that you would like us to supply, please let us know and we will do our best to accommodate you.



Holiday season is looming and for that overseas trip we keep a stock of Euros. You can also order most currencies at the PO counter and you can even order online to collect in person.

*Or you can sign up for a **Travel Money Card**. Cheques and cash can be deposited into your bank account, especially as more and more high street banks are closing. Check us out – we do most of what your local bank 'used' to do....*



Come and find us at the **School Fête on Friday 4th July**. We will be there with our ice-creams and a selection of our locally produced items ie: flour; eggs; beer; honey and preserves. We look forward to seeing you there.

Billy's Eggs

Due to a change in legislation, sadly we are no longer able to recycle egg boxes. However, you can recycle clean egg boxes with your fortnightly recycling waste collection (green bin).

Note that we have limited floor space for displaying our items and we are constantly trying to introduce new products. So, if you can't see what you're looking for, please ask.

**THANK YOU, AS ALWAYS,
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT**

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MARCHAM WI

Monday 21st July

7.30pm at Marcham Centre

Summer Party

'Fun and Fizz'

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Visitors always welcome

marchamwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk



Another brain teaser (mostly) from The Crown, Marcham who host a weekly quiz every Tuesday. Answers on page 19!

1. On October 4th, 1883, The Orient Express originally ran from Paris and terminated at which city?
2. Who lived at 23 Railway Cuttings in East Cheam?
3. What is the lowest double-digit prime number?
4. Who was the famous Captain of Calypso and co-inventor of the Aqua-Lung?
5. 78 percent (%) of which European country is forest?
6. In the UK, what is the minimum age for purchase and possession of fireworks?
7. Which ship was raised from the bed of the Solent on 11th October 1982?
8. Benghazi is the second biggest city in which country?
9. Sue Brown was the first woman to compete in which annual race in 1981?
10. On a German wine label, what does the word Trocken mean?
11. Which is the most frequently broken bone in the human body?
12. What vegetable is a major ingredient of an Asian dopiaza dish?



Summer Reading

A reminder that we have a book shelf in the Marcham Centre Hub, stocked with books available for you to borrow and also an opportunity to donate ones you have read. Space is limited, so Fiction and Biography donations only please.

The bookshelf is already receiving good use as people are discovering it. Enjoy a relaxing read in the summer this year!



The Midweek Walk

12.30pm Thursday 3rd July and Thursday 7th August

Please contact walks@marchamsociety.org.uk 01865 391439



An exhibition to celebrate thirty years of The Marcham Society

An Exhibition celebrating Marcham Society's 30 years

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Facebook: [marchamsociety](https://www.facebook.com/marchamsociety)



A big Thank you to everyone who supported the **Marcham Flower Festival** at the beginning of May .

It was lovely to see so many people and children taking part and visiting the festival.

£1,800 has been paid to 'Against Breast Cancer' in memory of Jenny Allan, our lead flower arranger at the church.

The money will help the charity to continue their work to achieve the ultimate goal of preventing secondary spread breast cancer related deaths.

New cake stands and domes will be bought for the new church kitchen for future events .

JENNY PAM

MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

As we work towards gaining our Healthy Smiles Accreditation, the children have been exploring oral health, how to brush your teeth and tooth friendly snacks. We've reissued our celebrations policy to make birthday celebrations non-food based.... And rewarded each child who completed a weekly tooth brushing chart with their own 2-minute tooth brushing timer! Good oral health practices should start early with children making their first visit to a dentist by the age of 1.... and we are proud to be part of the process of building good life-long habits.



As the village continues to grow, the interest in pre-school places also increases. To help with our future planning, please register your interest in joining Marcham Pre-school for 2026 and beyond. Our September admissions process is completed in February each year so applications need to be in early. Please contact us at admissions.mps@outlook.com.

If you are interested in your child joining Marcham Pre-school please contact us on admissions@outlook.com
Nicky Sanford, Early Years Teacher
Marcham Pre-school
01865 392101 email marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk
www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com

Open Gardens

Sunday 13th July 2 – 5pm

£5 per adult, children free

So far 6 gardens will be open but it's not too late to offer yours. It doesn't have to be perfect, if you love it, so will other people. Contact me and it will be added to the maps which will be available at each venue.

Sheila Dunford

sheila.dunford@btinternet.com or 391439

The proceeds will be shared equally between two charities:

Flexicare UK which provides live-in care &

CCLL which was started to help children harmed by the Chernobyl disaster but now includes all children suffering in Ukraine



What an incredible summer it's been at Marcham Little Angels! Our little angels have made the most of every moment, soaking up the sunshine, exploring the great outdoors, and even turning rainy days into joyful adventures with some very enthusiastic puddle jumping.

You may have spotted us out and about, making the most of everything our beautiful village has to offer. We've been on nature walks, enjoyed picnics in the fields, and had countless giggles at the park. We feel so lucky to have such a vibrant and welcoming community right on our doorstep.

At Forest School, our little angels have been immersed in the magic of nature, learning all about minibeasts and getting completely captivated by the wonders of the natural world. Meanwhile, our sporty angels have been building their skills and confidence with hockey sessions from Serious4Sport, brilliant for developing hand-eye coordination and resilience, and Tom's Tennis Tots, which has quickly become a firm favourite. Our little angels love tennis!



As the season turns, we've also been preparing to say a very special goodbye. Our eldest angels have been getting ready for the next chapter as they prepare to spread their wings and head off to big school. They've been practising recognising their names, putting on their coats and shoes, and even learning to line up, such big steps for such little people.

There wasn't a dry eye in the room as we watched them graduate in their bright yellow gowns and hats. We celebrated all they've achieved with a big, proud send-off, and while we'll miss them terribly, we know they'll continue to shine wherever they go.

Here's to a summer full of sunshine, laughter, and memories we'll treasure forever.

The Marcham Little Angels Team

For more information:

T: 01865 819992

E: info@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk

W: www.littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk

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Call the police on 999 if you think a child is in danger.

MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

The summer term is always busy – and this half term has started with a bang! Children in Years 4 and 5 have spent 3 days on a residential experience to Youldbury Scout Adventure Centre, where our values of **courage** were really tested. We were so impressed with how our children were willing to 'have a go' and pushed themselves beyond their comfort zones. They were so pleased with what they achieved!



We had activities such as firefighting, cooking, leap of faith, archery, low ropes, laser tag, crate stacking and zip wire. All children were challenged in different ways and had some great experiences. The staff were so proud of them all for pushing themselves, whether it was during an activity or staying the night away from home. The children were fantastic and showed great resilience, courage and determination.



As well as this Outdoors Educational Activity, pupils took part in our first Schools Triathlon over the weekend. Children swam, cycled and ran in aid of Restless Development – a charity committed to empowering young people to make a better world. Miss Knowles writes:

On Sunday 8th of June, some children from years 3,4,5 and 6 went to the Oratory School to complete a triathlon. They all swam 50m, cycled 1000m and ran 750m each. It was a tough day for them, but they were all smiling, cheering each other on and trying their best. They showed the Marcham values excellently and I was so proud to witness their efforts. Well done team Marcham!

To see what else the school has been up to go to
www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk/class-pages



Come and be a part of our Marcham School family.

We pride ourselves on being the primary school for the pupils of Marcham and the surrounding villages and we hope that, meeting us, you will feel that you belong. Come and join us!

Why not visit the school office, phone (01865 391448) or email us office.3235@marcham.oxon.sch.uk for an opportunity to speak to us and arrange to see the school at work. You can also find out more about our school - our vision, values and passions - by visiting our website <https://www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk/>.

We look forward to welcoming you and showing off what we think is the BEST school in the world!



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**Does Your Local (to Marcham) Organisation, Society,
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**IF THE ANSWER IS "YES" TO THIS QUESTION THEN THE
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If you have an event to promote
email editor@madnews.co.uk with the details
Deadline is the 15th of the month before publication



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Tell them what you know, not who you are



Marcham Centre

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT TO DATE

As most of you will know, the Centre includes the village hall, Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and the playing fields. Throughout the year, particularly during the summer months, these areas are used extensively by many within the village. This contributes immensely to the running costs of the facilities, as do the regular hirers during weekdays, such as those providing sessions for Pilates, Zumba, Karate for children, Harmony Inspires Choir and Slimming World. Not forgetting of course the excellent service provided by Thirsty Café on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. Community groups comprising of the Bridge Club, Indoor Bowls, Church, Cubs, Guides, Brownies, Marcham Society and Marcham WI, together with sport clubs, Marcham Cricket, Football and Colts Football all contribute to the overall cost of running the facilities. The Trustees are therefore very appreciative of all these bodies, whether private or community based for their continuing support.

Similarly, hires by members of our community, particularly at weekends for parties etc, have proven to be an important aspect towards covering the overall cost and viability of the Centre. This has vindicated an early decision to constrain regular hirers (other than Thirsty Café) to weekdays only, leaving weekends for private hires for members of our community. So a big thank you to all of you that have supported us by hiring the facilities over these early years.

WHERE IS THIS ALL LEADING?

Whilst the halls are very well used, there are vacant sessions during the week, ideal for regular users. We have one or two more about to start, but there is scope to fit in more. The Trustees have regularly reviewed how to market our excellent facilities. This has been productive, but a wider knowledge of other potential users would be helpful, as many of you will belong to or be aware of other classes and/or groups that may benefit from using our facilities, albeit regularly or occasionally.

Please therefore have a 'quick think' and let us know if there's any opportunity for potential users. Indeed, at any time in the future, let us know, and we'll make contact to see if we can help to accommodate them.

These are facilities of which we are all proud, so why not help us to extend their usage, potentially providing a wider range of events for us, as a community, to enjoy.

Thank you. Any suggestions to Natasha at **01865 507211** or coordinator@marchamcentre.org

BAR OPENING HOURS

Thank you to all those that have continued to support the bar or have just started to appreciate what an excellent facility it provides. The early weeks of sunshine have resulted in the seasonal increase in those socialising at the village hall bar, taking advantage of its large patio and playing areas. Managed and staffed entirely by our team of volunteers, it

offers drinks and snacks at very reasonable prices. The bar is open for anyone to enjoy and is very 'family friendly'. So, if you have not yet paid us a visit, why not venture along sometime for a chat and a drink. You will experience a warm welcome and almost certainly meet some 'new faces'.

Summer Opening Times

Wednesdays	7pm until 11pm
Fridays	5pm until 11pm
Saturdays	1pm until 10.30pm
Sundays	Midday until 6pm

The bar staff look forward to seeing you.

TRUSTEES

A reminder, the following are Marcham Community Group Trustees, who would welcome any feedback you may wish to give at any time. The Trustees manage the Marcham Centre on your behalf, so it's only right and proper that you have the opportunity to make your views known. Any suggestions particularly welcomed.

Dan Barnes; Geoff Dix; Adam Grady; Mark Harvie; Trevor Hill; Mike Hoath; Ruth Mander; Jenny Pam and Colin Trinder.

All can be contacted personally or via coordinator@marchamcentre.org

We are an approachable bunch! Enjoy the summer!

Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, Marcham OX13 6TY
enquiries@marchamcentre.org www.marchamcentre.org

Operated by Marcham Community Group (MCG)
Registered in England 7470307 Charity No. 1144407



SAVE THE DATES

Counting down the days to lift off!
Annual Holiday Club at All Saints Church, Marcham
Tuesday 26th - Friday 29th August 2025
10am - 2pm
£40 (with discount available for multiple siblings).
Bookings go live on 1st July.
Allsaintsmarcham-with-garford.org.uk

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Would you like to advertise your business or service in MADNews?

MADNews is delivered to all homes in the Marcham area including Garford, Tubney, Frilford, Cothill and Gozzards Ford. Contact adverts@madnews.co.uk for details

SOCIAL & COMMUNITY

Vicky's After School Club

Breakfast and After School Club
now open at Marcham Primary School
Providing quality, affordable and accessible
childcare for children aged 4-11 years of age

We offer your child ...
A happy, safe and secure setting, allowing them to learn and
develop freely within the play centred
environment, the opportunity to take responsibility for
themselves and their actions

07.45 – 08.45 Breakfast Club
15.15 – 18.15 After School Club
Monday-Friday, term time only

Vicky Hickman Tel No: 07887711454
Email: info@vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk
website: www.vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk

Playworker Vacancies available
please get in touch for more information

MINIBUS

Planning a trip out? Why not use the Community Minibus!!

14 seats plus your driver

(The driver needs to be aged between 25 and 70
their licence MUST cover driving a minibus)

A standard donation is requested for each
booking to cover diesel/maintenance.

Contact Marion Belcher on 07507 797757
for more information

Thirsty Community Café continues with its twice weekly café at the Marcham Centre on a Wednesday and Saturday and Natural Bread are with us each Saturday.

National Volunteers Week was in June, and it was a great opportunity to thank our wonderful volunteers – without them your local Thirsty Pop-up Café would not take place. We have had a couple of café sessions where we have had to run them as a Café Lite as we have not had enough volunteers for the full session.

You can volunteer for half a session, or a full session and training is provided. We have the following roles you can volunteer for: chef (cooking the bacon, sausages and eggs for the rolls), washing-up, barista, helping front of house with setting up, clearing away, taking orders and serving and clearing the tables. We are very flexible on the number of hours / sessions you could volunteer for.



If you would like to chat about volunteering, please email hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk and Ruth or Nicci will get back to you.



Wednesday 16th July will be the next Community Lunch 12-1:30pm.

If you plan to come along to the lunch it would be appreciated if you let us know by email hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk or let us know via our Facebook page.

See the calendar for all the Thirsty sessions this month

Website: www.thirstycafemarcham.co.uk

E-mail: hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/thirstycafemarcham>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/thirstycafemarcham>

SPORT REPORT

This month we turn our attention to a game that was invented in Victorian Great Britain, and at which other nations now excel, Table Tennis – or *whiff-whaff* as it used to be known! It has moved from the dining tables of upper-class British households, played with books for a net, a modified champagne cork for a ball and cigar boxes for bats into a mainstream, fully regulated sport.

For those who would like a full history of the game I advise you look at a 2018 article by Mike Rowbottom on the 'inside the games' website (www.insidethegames.biz). Briefly, in 1901 James Gibb patented the game and called it 'Gossima'. A year on J Jaques & Son Ltd in London began selling a kit called Ping Pong after the noise made by the bat and ball. This proved to be a busy year as the Table Tennis Association and the Ping Pong Association were formed, later merging in 1922. In 1927 this became the English Table Tennis Association which lasted until 2014 when replaced by Table Tennis England, the current governing body for English table tennis.

The game moved from a leisure activity to become an Olympic sport in Seoul in 1988. Currently the sport is dominated by the Chinese. In April of this year in the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) rankings China holds 4 out of the top 10 places including the top two male players. The first English man is 54th. Whilst not enjoying the financial rewards associated with tennis or other high-profile sports, *Fine Magazine* reports that Wang Hao (Chinese) who won three Table Tennis World Cups is worth about \$15 million.

For women, the top 5 players are all Chinese, followed by 6-9 from Japan. Moving down to number 264 we find the first English woman – Tin Tin Ho, and then to 471 for Poon Yat.

Anna Hursey, born in Carmarthen in 2006 to a Chinese mother and British father, became the youngest player to represent Wales in a senior table tennis team in the European Championship, when aged just 10 years. She qualified for the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Australia becoming the youngest competitor in the Games history. She represented Great Britain in the Paris Olympics and is currently ranked 4th on the ITTF Junior table. What an achievement!

(Almost) locally Matthew Syed (born in Reading), now a sports columnist in *The Times* newspaper, became three-time men's singles Table Tennis champion at the Commonwealth Games, and also represented Great Britain in two Olympic Games. He was the top ranked English player for 10 years, and in 1988 was ranked 25th in the world.

Why the focus on Table Tennis? Well, did you know that you can play Table Tennis in the Small Meeting Room in Marcham Centre? There is a table and net provided, but you need to bring your own bats and balls. To book the room go to www.marchamcentre.org/booking.php

Why not give it a try? You can have a fun time and maybe put Marcham firmly on the sporting map by sparking an interest in someone who can go on to greatness in the Table Tennis world.

If you are unsure of the rules then go to: www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/rules-and-how-to-play



Table tennis table in the Small Meeting Room

Cricket

It has not been a good start to the cricket season. Marcham 1st team won at the end of May, and again on 14th June but, otherwise the results have not been good for either team.

Aunt Sally

On 21st May a local derby was held, Marcham Centre v The Crown. Honours were split – Marcham A beat The Crown 6-0 whereas Marcham B lost to The Crown 5-1. Since then, at the time of writing, Marcham A have won one and lost one, Marcham B have drawn one and won one. The Crown A have won one and drawn one whereas The Crown B team have lost two matches.

I hope everyone has a good summer, and we will be back in September.

EVENTS



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SEE THE EXHIBITION
18 January - 31 August 2025



**THAMES VALLEY
POLICE**

OXFORDSHIRE CAREERS EVENT

🕒 Saturday 31st May, 10:00am - 2.00pm

📍 Said Business School, Park End Street
Oxford OX1 1HP



The Arts Society Abingdon LECTURE

**Wednesday 16th July,
10.30am and 2.00pm
Abbey Cinema, Abbey Close,
Abingdon OX14 3JD**

Caravaggio: the bad boy of the Baroque
Dan Evans

This scandalous and sometimes vicious painter produced work with cinematic compositions and intensely visceral details. His downfall is the stuff of a film not yet made, and despite dying prematurely, his canvases influenced a generation that followed.

The lecture will be held at the Abbey Cinema at 10.30 and 2pm.

Visitors are very welcome to attend this lecture, cost £6.00. Lectures last 1 hour but allow extra time for announcements.

For more information on future lectures and other activities see theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk or email info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk



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**BBOWT Photography
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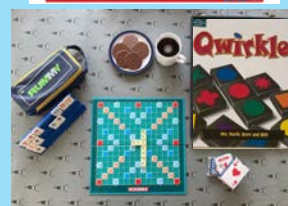


It's time to give it your best shot!

Our annual photography competition celebrating the wildlife and wild places of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire is open for entries until 31 August 2025.

With a great selection of prizes to be won, we can't wait to see your images! The competition is free to enter but we welcome donations to the Nature Recovery Fund – our biggest ever fundraising appeal.

www.bbowt.org.uk/photography-competition-2025



Games Morning

Enjoy a chat over a friendly game of Scrabble, Mexican Train dominoes, Rummikub,...

All welcome!

Every Monday
10.30-12 noon
Duffield Place Lounge

No charge (optional small donation for coffee/tea/biscuits)

ALL SAINTS' & ST LUKE'S CHURCHES

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

Regular Sunday services

10.30am: Morning Service at AS • 6pm: Evening Service

Wednesday Holy Communion 10.30am at Duffield Place

Contacts:

Revd. Nick Weldon Vicar vicar@allsaintsmarcham.org 01865 391962

Rob Finch Youth Worker youth@allsaintsmarcham.org

Jill Rowe Children & Families minister families@allsaintsmarcham.org

Tamsin Gilbert Parish Administrator info@allsaintsmarcham.org

INTRODUCING THE ROWLANDSONS

We have a new member of staff coming this summer. Ordained at Christ Church Cathedral in early July, Revd Phil Rowlandson is starting his ministry as curate in the parishes of Marcham and Garford, Fyfield and Tubney, and he will be with us for up to 4 years as he completes the final part of his training to be a Vicar. He and his family moved into Marcham in June. I'll let Phil introduce himself and his family...

We are Phil and Heather, Ezra (6), Casper (3), Rufus (1). We were both born and raised in Reading in Christian families. Phil was working in property when he first felt called to explore ministry after serving on various teams in a church plant south of Reading in Arborfield.

He started working for the church, Church@TheGreen in September 2018 as a Ministry Trainee and later as Assistant Minister, particularly focusing on community engagement and youth work.

During this time, he was approved for ordination in the Church of England and has spent the last three years training at Oak Hill College in North London. Heather trained and worked as a primary school teacher until Ezra was born and since has been at home with the boys. As a family we like getting outside, especially if it involves a frisbee or American football, which we will also watch. We are really looking forward to meeting you all soon.



ST LUKE'S, GARFORD

St Luke's is open for quiet prayer 11am-12pm on Sundays with no morning service.

Sunday 6 July, 6pm - Communion

Sunday 3 August, 11am - Lamastide

Sunday 7 September, 11am - Harvest

The church was very well attended by Garford and Marcham villagers and visitors for the Hymns and Pimms service at the start of June. The choir delivered a beautiful rendition of Bruckner's 'Locus Iste' and fine weather enabled the congregation to gather for refreshments in the evening tranquility of the churchyard.



Music is an important element of fellowship at St. Luke's and we are looking forward to the arrival of a new keyboard soon, with grateful thanks to Ben Skipp for the loan of his instrument to date.

Contact: st.lukes@allsaintsmarcham.org

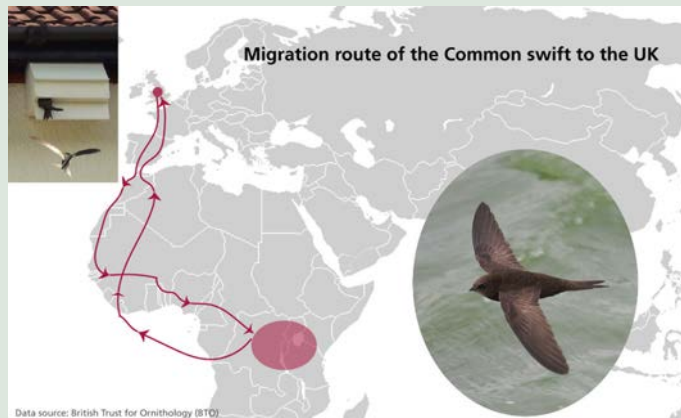
NEWS FROM WILD OXFORDSHIRE

Happy Swift Awareness Week!

To celebrate swift awareness week, here's some interesting facts about swifts.

These birds are the TopGun *Mavrics* of the bird world as they can do almost everything in the air! Swift's feet and legs aren't designed for sitting on the floor or a perch. They can perch vertically but they can't sit like a robin or pigeon for example, as their wings are far too long. They are perfectly designed for flight and this means they do everything whilst flying – drinking, eating and even mating! True acrobatic flyers.

Swifts have one of the longest migration journeys in the world! Our swifts migrate approximately 14,000 miles to return to our swift boxes in Oxfordshire every year! What a journey – really makes us think of 'Home sweet home'.



The swifts we see in our towns and villages have overwintered in Africa and come back each summer to nest and raise their chicks. Once the chick(s) leave the nest, they're off - they will never return to the family nest again.

Sadly swifts are endangered and need swift boxes on buildings to nest. Find out more about how you can help them on either the Cherwell swift project website <http://www.cherwell-swifts.org/>

Summer Gardening

Heading into the hottest months of the year, we need to be looking out for our local wildlife that could be harmed by the heat. Fortunately, there are lots of easy ways to lend a helping hand.

Even the most heat-loving species can suffer without enough to drink so consider providing a shallow bath of water in your garden. Add some stones around the dish so that bees and butterflies can climb out if they fall in.

It's also important to provide some shade in your garden. A small pile of logs can be a great hiding place for insects from the sun.

Make sure you're also helping your grass and flowers survive the heat as grass can reduce surface temperatures by 10°C compared to concrete and flowers are a vital wildlife food source in the hot weather.

World Conservation Day – 28th July

Annual World Conservation Day is a great reason to join your local nature group and see how you could help create space for nature in your area. Check out our map to find the group closest to you <https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/guidance/community-groups>

Thank you so much for all you have done for nature's recovery in the last year. Together we have brought people together, created more space for nature, and inspired more people to act for nature. Many people contribute to Wild Oxfordshire, and this support enables us to create a more natural, resilient, and biodiverse Oxfordshire for the benefit of all. If you would like to join in and are able to, we would greatly appreciate a contribution towards our work, either through a one-off contribution, or a monthly contribution. Check out our website to find out more about the many ways you can support us and our recent achievements.

Why not sign up to our monthly email Bulletin, visit our website, and follow us on social media for the latest nature news and ways you can join others in helping nature in Oxfordshire <https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/news>

RHIANNON YOUNG

Wild Oxfordshire Nature Recovery
Engagement Officer



DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

FOOD AND GARDEN WASTE

In early June I attended a tour of the **Anaerobic Digestion** facility near Wallingford, owned and run by Severn Trent Green Power, which is where all the food waste collected from homes across the Vale and South Oxfordshire DC is taken. The site also processes all garden waste collected in South and Vale, at a composting facility located at the same site; this process is fairly simple – it is essentially composted as you might at home, only at a far greater scale.



The food waste is macerated, separated from the caddy liners in which it arrives, and diluted using liquid wastes. It is then pumped into a series of large digestion tanks, where the food waste breaks down over a period of around 90 days and is finally pasteurised before being spread on farm fields as liquid fertiliser. The 4.5 million m3 of methane biogas produced during the digestion process is fed into on-site gas engines, which produce enough electricity to power around 4,800 homes. There's far more detail than I'm able to convey here, and there's something to be said for seeing the sheer scale of it all in person. These tours are free, open to all (subject to availability), and run about five times each year. If you are interested in joining one, please email waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk or call **01235 422146**.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

As I've written before, the government is pushing through reorganisation of local government across much of the country, including Oxfordshire. Three competing visions for how this could look have been proposed:

- The proposal from Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) is for a 'One Oxfordshire' unitary authority, which would essentially see a merger of OCC with the four district councils (including Vale) and Oxford City.
- The four district councils have proposed two new unitary councils: (1) Oxford City, West Oxfordshire and Cherwell; and (2) South, Vale, and West Berkshire as the 'Ridgeway Council'.
- Oxford City Council has proposed a 'Greater Oxford' model, with a borders approximately those of the green belt, and two other unitaries similar to those proposed by the district councils (but each significantly smaller). They propose using this approach to get 40,000 new homes built within that area by 2040.

There is currently a consultation open for the two councils model (see twocouncils.org online) and consultations are expected soon for the other proposals. Your opinions are most welcome! They will all feed into the final decision to be made by central government.

CLLR DR ROBERT CLEGG

District Councillor for Marcham Ward

Phone: 07784225290

Email: robert.clegg@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

One of the most fulfilling things about representing our division on Oxfordshire County Council is being able to support residents with the various queries and concerns they raise, but during my first month or so in the role, there is clearly one area that people want to talk about the most – highways. It may come as a surprise to some that only 8% of the County Council budget is allocated to highways and transport – whether that is enough or not is a separate discussion – but it's clear that the maintenance of our roads and footpaths is something that residents care deeply about, whether its road safety, potholes or speed limits. I



was glad to see the recent completion of works around the new Bloor Homes site in Marcham and the re-installation of 20mph signs, but I wanted to use my column this month to update you on a few other highways related issues:

FRILFORD LIGHTS SCHEME

I asked officers for an update on the A338/A415 Frilford Lights scheme, which was due to report last year and which several residents have raised as an issue with me. The purpose of the project is to improve road safety and accessibility for all road users, particularly pedestrians and cyclists, in and around the Frilford lights. I've been told that a report is finally being developed with proposals for next steps, and this phase of work is expected to conclude by late summer. This will include details of the planned public consultation, so I will continue to monitor this and provide further updates.

A415 ROAD SAFETY

During the recent campaign and in the weeks since, a number of residents have raised concerns about the A415, ranging from issues with HGVs to the general speed of vehicles and the safety of pedestrians and cyclists. Most of you will know this is an area I am passionate about, so I'm glad to report that Oxfordshire County Council is currently in the process of reviewing all A & B roads across Oxfordshire as part of the 'Vision Zero' programme, which aims to improve safety and reduce the number of casualties on roads in the county. I was encouraged to find out that the A415 will form part of this work programme and have asked the team to keep me updated on how this progresses. My hope is that we will be able to tag on some much-needed safety improvements to the A415 as part of this work

As this edition of the MAD News covers both July and August, if you'd like to stay up to date with what I'm doing for our area over the summer, please do give me a follow on Facebook, where I post regular updates on local issues. You can find my page at: www.facebook.com/JamesRPlumb

JAMES PLUMB

County Councillor for Marcham and Cummor

Email: james.plumb@oxfordshire.gov.uk

MP'S REPORT

VICTORY IN CAMPAIGN TO REPEAL VAGRANCY ACT

The Vagrancy Act, which criminalised rough sleeping, will be scrapped for good by Spring of next year. This 1824 Act is used to arrest the homeless to this day. A 7 year campaign to repeal the Act first started when a group of Oxfordshire students brought a petition to us, and has finally ended with success. It is not, and should never have been, acceptable to view homelessness as a crime.

PRIDE

It is always a pleasure to see Oxford at its vibrant and inclusive best, and this year's Pride was no exception. Despite the weather, many locals came out and showed their support for our community. LGBTQ+ rights are under threat, now more than ever, with too many politicians trying to stoke division in a manufactured culture war. That makes celebrations like Pride even more important. It was also great fun to judge the Pride dog show. Our furry residents put on a fabulous performance - the competition was fierce! Plenty of beautiful and superbly outfitted pooches, including best dog in show, **Bella the cockapoo**.



GAZA

Residents from Marcham, as elsewhere, raise the situation in Gaza and the Middle East with me more than any other. I continue to have contact with families in Gaza, who have described conditions on the ground as like those of a slaughterhouse, and how many are

on the brink of starvation. I and my Liberal Democrat colleagues continue to take every opportunity in parliament and through the media to raise the issue of Palestine and urge the government to take stronger action. Diplomatic recognition of Palestine, an arms embargo, a ceasefire and sanctions are some of the steps we regularly press ministers to take.

As ever, if you have any issues we can help with, please email us at: layla.moran.mp@parliament.uk

For more regular updates you can follow me

Bluesky: @laylamoran.bsky.social

Facebook: LaylaMoranUK

OTHER REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Frilford Garford Jill Rayner jill.rayner@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Tubney Mark Coleman mark.coleman@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

MP

Witney (for Frilford, Garford and most of Tubney)

Charlie Maynard charlie.maynard.mp@parliament.uk



**Kennington
Memory
Club**

Providing safe and supportive day care for people with dementia and respite for their carers



Scan Me

July already, so that means half the year has gone! But for some this is the season for holidays, a change of scenery, travel to somewhere different, a time for relaxation. For someone with dementia the departure from regular routine can be unsettling and disorientating, so anything but relaxing. Imagine coming out of your room and not knowing whether to turn left or right to find the bathroom or dining room ~ confusing enough for those of us without the added challenge of dementia!

At Kennington Memory Club the importance of routine and predictability are well understood. Our members, those with dementia who attend the Day Support Centre, are comfortable with their surroundings and the people they will encounter there once they have settled into the pattern of coming one or two days a week. The wonderful staff and volunteers make them feel so welcome and help to fill the days with fun, laughter, activities, music and memories.

If you know someone with dementia who would benefit from the change of scene from their own home to somewhere which itself becomes familiar and reassuring, with the added advantage of respite for their carer, then the Club is the place for them. Contact the Club Organiser, Kay, to find out about visiting the Club to see whether it could be right for them, the sooner the better on their dementia journey for a good chance of settling into the routine..

Isobel Birse *Chairman, Kennington Memory Club*

www.kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk

- Answers to this month's Crown Quiz from page 7
1. Constantinople or Istanbul
 2. Tony Hancock in Hancock's Half-Hour
 3. Eleven (11)
 4. Jacques Cousteau
 5. Finland
 6. Eighteen (18)
 7. Henry VIII's ship The Mary Rose
 8. Libya
 9. The University Boat Race which she coxed for the winning crew from Oxford
 10. Dry
 11. Clavicle or collar bone
 12. Onion – 'doplaaza' itself translates to 'two onions' in Persian



GARD is a local community group formed to campaign against Thames Water's proposals to build a reservoir south-west of Abingdon.

JUDICIAL REVIEW: The Judicial Review has now taken place – June 25th and 26th. The outcome from it – success or failure – will be known after mid-July. We shall send an update to all members and supporters as soon as we know the result.

If we succeed, we hope that the Secretary of State will call a Public Inquiry. If not – difficult times ahead, but be sure, GARD are not giving up.

HANNEY ROAD CLAY COMPACTION TRIALS: Experts from GARD visited the CCT site on 20th May, but in spite of requests, they were not allowed a close look at the test embankments. In their opinion the CCT tests were neither large enough nor long enough to establish key design issues. They also noted that Thames Water, after finding out about the different clays on the site, have made design changes to the embankments. These will highly likely lead to significant cost increases and possibly time extensions to complete any reservoir, if one is approved.

Look out for the **NEW GARD WEBSITE:** we shall post the result of the Judicial Review here as soon as we know it.

GARD and CPRE's Petition calling for a Public Inquiry was submitted to the Secretary of State Steve Reed on June 19th with almost 6500 signatures.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? Join GARD, like and share GARD's Social Media posts, display a poster or banner at your home. Write to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Steve Reed; to your MP and to your Councillors (County, District and Parish). For email details contact the GARD Secretary gard.secretary@gmail.com

AFTER THE JUDICIAL REVIEW: when we know the outcome we can decide the next action. We know that we shall be needing funds raised from the public. Please donate.

Here **GARD Payment methods for Membership or Donations**
Bank transfer to Group Against Reservoir Development Account Number: 71266438 Sort Code: 40-45-36 Please include your name as a reference & email gard.secretary@gmail.com

DEREK STORK, Chairman GARD.

For more information www.gard-oxon.org.uk

Facebook: @abingdonreservoir, Twitter @GARD_OXON

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OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

JULY 2025

The number in brackets refers to the page number where you can find more details

Abbreviations:

AS All Saints' Church, Marcham, **SL** St Luke's Church, Garford
DP Duffield Place, **MC** Marcham Centre

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) SL Hymns and Praise 11 am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17) SL Evening Service 6pm (17)		1	2	3	4	5
			MC Thirsty Cafe with Slay & Play 9-11.30am (15) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17)	Millets Farm Classic car meet 9.30am-noon Marcham Society Midweek Walk 12.30pm (9)	Summer Fête at Marcham School 6-8 pm (5)	MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am (15)
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17) SL Communion 6pm (17)	DP Community Games Group (16) 10.30-12.00 MC Bridge 6.50pm		MC Thirsty Cafe 9-11.30am (15) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17)			MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am with Natural Bread (15)
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) Open Gardens, Marcham 2-5pm (10) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	DP Community Games Group (16) 10.30-12.00 MC Bridge 6.50pm MC Marcham Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm (3)		MC Thirsty Café Lite 9-11.30am (15) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) MC Community Lunch 12-1.30pm (11) Arts Society Abingdon 10.30am & 2pm (16)			MC Thirsty Café with Natural Bread 9-11.30am (15)
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) MC Thirsty Cafe Community BBQ 1-3 pm (15) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	DP Community Games Group (16) 10.30-12.00 MC Bridge 6.50pm MC Marcham WI 7.30pm (9)		MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am (15) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17)			MC Thirsty Café with Natural Bread 9-11.30am (15)
27	28	29	30	31		
AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	World Conservation Day (17) DP Community Games Group (16) 10.30-12.00 MC Bridge 6.50pm		DP Holy Communion 10.30 am (17) Happy 13th Birthday MVS (13)			

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

AUGUST 2025

The number in brackets refers to the page number where you can find more details

Abbreviations:

AS All Saints' Church, Marcham, **SL** St Luke's Church, Garford
DP Duffield Place, **MC** Marcham Centre

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
			Thirsty Cafe will be closed during the month of August			
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) SL Lamastide 11 am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	DP Community Games Group (16) 10.30-12.00 MC Bridge 6.50pm		DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17)	Millets Farm Classic car meet 9.30am-noon Marcham Society Midweek Walk 12.30pm (9)		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	DP Community Games Group (16) 10.30-12.00 MC Bridge 6.50pm MC Marcham WI 7.30pm (9)		DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17)		MADNEWS DEADLINE 5PM FOR NEXT ISSUE	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	DP Community Games Group (16) 10.30-12.00		DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17)			
24 & 31	25 Bank Holiday	26	27	28	29	30
AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	DP Community Games Group (16) 10.30-12.00		AS Annual Holiday Club: 10am-2pm (13)			
			DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17)	Revised Green Week bin collection		

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