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December 2026 Vol 48 No. 12

Your Independent Local News Source



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Hi Everyone,

Happy Holidays!

Wishing you all a joyous New Year

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The MADNews Team

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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Richard.Osborn@thamesvalley.police.uk

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Marcham and Cumnor

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: 07784 225290

Email:**robert.clegg@whitehorsedc.gov.uk**

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

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

MP

Layla Moran **layla.moran.mp@parliament.uk**

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

CHRISTMAS – VILLAGE GREEN

To bring the joy and festive spirit of the season to our village, the Council is delighted that **Andrew MacLean** of ADM Trees at Frilford has again agreed to provide a Christmas tree for the village green. We extend our gratitude to Andrew for his generosity. Councillors will decorate the tree. Our thanks go too to the Councillors who have volunteered to arrange this.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

The Vale of White Horse District Council is again recycling real Christmas Trees in January. When you no longer need your tree, it can be put out next to your brown bin at the kerbside provided it is less than 1.8m or 6 ft tall. If larger than this it will need to be cut into sections. If you do not have a brown garden waste bin, then your real Christmas tree can be placed on the grass, alongside the garage block, close to the Eastern bound (Abingdon) Duffield Place bus stop. The **what3words** reference is **loaded.drainage.tissue**. The last day for depositing your Christmas Tree at this location will be by the end of the day on Tuesday 12th January, 2027. Trees left after this date will not be collected, as collection takes place early morning on Wednesday 13th January, 2027. Please do not obstruct the bus stop, when leaving your trees.

There will also be a Christmas tree collection too from Millets Farm, so this is another opportunity for local residents to recycle their tree. Trees need to be dropped off at Millets by the end of Friday 8th January 2027 if using this site.

NEW SHOPPER BUS SERVICE

First and Last Mile is a bus service that connects communities and villages in Oxfordshire to local shops and services. It is a volunteer-led, not-for-profit company, driven to reinstate missing rural community transport services. The 443 service runs on Tuesdays from Eynsham to Abingdon via Cothill, (Merry Miller 10.13), Gozzards Ford (10.16), Tesco car park (10.22), High Street (10.37) returning from Abingdon Stop A7 (12.15), Tesco car park (12.30), Gozzards Ford (12.36), Cothill (12.39) and Eynsham Church (1.35). Full timetable is at **https://bustimes.org/services/443-eynsham-abingdon-tesco-high-street**

REINSTATED BUS STOPS ON A415 NEAR HYDE FARM NURSERY AND JUNCTION INTO THE WILLOWS

The X35 service Wantage to Abingdon is now stopping at the reinstated bus stops on the A415 near Hyde Farm Nursery, in addition to the war memorial stops. This will help residents at the eastern side of the village, and prevent many from having to walk to the war memorial to board the bus.

DUFFIELD PLACE – EASTBOUND BUS STOP TO ABINGDON

The Parish Council has been given permission by the Vale of White Horse District Council to site a bus shelter on its land, at the Duffield Place eastbound stop on Howard Cornish Road. There is quite a bit of legal work to be done in preparing, agreeing and signing a Licence document. When this is complete, a shelter can be installed sometime in the new year.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Parish Council has been considering grant applications at its recent meetings, and has so far made the following awards:

- Marcham Community Group £500 towards wheelie bin hire for the Big Marcham Weekend next year
- Citizens Advice Bureau Oxfordshire £1350
- the charity Clean Slate £250
- £200 to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Some organisations not yet receiving an award, were asked to provide additional information to support their applications, so that they could be better considered at a future date.

COMMUNITY APPEAL – PLEASE HELP KEEP OUR PATHS CLEAR

As autumn turns to winter, our shared spaces need a little extra care. Overgrown hedges can make pathways harder to navigate, particularly after dark. We kindly ask all residents to check their hedges and shrubs bordering public paths and trim them back where needed. This small act helps keep our community safe, accessible and welcoming for everyone.

COMMUNITY APPEAL – DOG FOULING

Another appeal for our shared spaces. Please remember to pick up after your dog every time you're out for a walk. Another small act that makes a big difference for the green spaces and playing spaces used by all. It helps the sports teams playing on the pitches, helps prevent unpleasant smells and health hazards, and shows respect for the village we all cherish. Please remember to carry a bag with you, use the bins provided and be a responsible pet owner.

AUTUMN / WINTER WEATHER

Autumn and winter are times when there are shorter days, less daylight and reduced visibility. In addition, paths can have leaf fall, and be icy, have snow build up, or be very wet during periods of heavy rainfall. Residents are reminded to take care when out and about, particularly as the weather becomes colder, being careful not to slip, trip and fall.

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS – ENTRY TO PRIMARY OR INFANT SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2027

If you are a parent or carer of a child 3 or 4

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Snowmen by Artem Kniazon (Unsplash)

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MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL continued

years old then you need to apply for a primary school place now. This is for children born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023 (inclusive). You still have to apply even if your child already attends a nursery attached to your preferred school. For further information and to apply online go to **www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schools/apply-school-place/online-applications**. The closing date for applications is 15 January 2027.

CONSTABLES HAM – SMALL FIELD OFF MILL ROAD, 2/3 OF THE WAY DOWN ON THE WESTERN SIDE

The Parish Council invites applications for a seasonal grazing licence for the small field off Mill Road. The licence runs from the beginning of April for a period of 364 days. Interest parties should submit written expressions of interest, including intended use, and proposed fee by the end of January 2027. The Council is happy to consider any other uses. Please contact the Clerk with your expression of interest or for any further information. Please note the Council is not obliged to accept the highest tender or any tender.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 14th December 2026 at 7.30pm at Marcham Centre. ***Please check the Council's website as arrangements may change.***

Clerk to the Council:

Mrs. L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Road Tel: 01865 391833
clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk
w w w . m a r c h a m p a r i s h c o u n c i l . g o v . u k

Bank Holiday 2026 Waste Collections

~~Wednesday 30 December~~ **Saturday 2 January**
Green, Food Waste, Batteries, Textiles

~~Wednesday 6 January~~ **Friday 8 January**
Rubbish, Food Waste & Small Electricals

~~Wednesday 13 January~~ **Thursday 14 January**
Green, Food Waste, Batteries, Textiles

No garden waste collections between 25 December and 10 January – this service will resume from Monday 11 January.



Check with Vale for details
whitehorsedc.uk

or Contact Biffa 01235 422123
(Text phone users add 18001 before dialing)
admin.vale@biffa.co.uk







Games Morning

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

Newcomers of all ages always welcome and we like learning new games!

Every Monday
10.30-12 noon
Duffield Place Lounge

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

In loving memory of Ronald William Pointer 1930-2026 better known to many of you as Tod



Marion, Sarah and Philip would like to thank the many people in Marcham and nearby villages who have sent cards and messages of condolence following the death of our beloved husband, father, and grandfather to Annabel and Natasha. Some of you will have attended Tod's funeral by the time you read this.

Tod was born at Townsend Farm in North Street, as it was then, before moving to Priory Lane where he spent the rest of his life. An industrious man; he was always busy, making and mending.

After National Service in The Army, Tod worked at the Cowley Car factory until retirement. He also worked part-time for Bernard Higgins, coach driving, mainly at weekends; although only those of you who have lived in Marcham for many years will remember the garage and petrol station by the cross-roads, opposite The Crown.

We have been overwhelmed by the number of cards and messages received – they are very much appreciated, thank you all.

With kind regards

MARION, SARAH AND PHILIP

MARCHAM AND DISTRICT POPPY APPEAL 2026

A successful year, once again thanks to each and everyone who donated to the RBL Poppy Appeal. We are still awaiting final figures but I can share that when writing this 15th November that we have cashed **£4688.42** and taken more than **£1300** via contactless payments, with donations still to process I can confidently say we have raised together over **£6000**!

A tremendous amount thank you once again and for all the lovely comments about the Poppies displayed around the village.

JAMIE BUTCHER

Thank you!
Thank you!
Thank you!



I would like to thank the whole community for all your amazing gifts, cards and kind words following my recent 'stepping down' from my role as Children and Families Minister at All Saints.

What an incredible journey it has been over many years, and what a pleasure and a privilege to have been able to see so many children in our community grow from children into adults (some now with their own children). ***Marcham is a very special place!***

Thank you especially to the school for their wonderful send off and all the amazing booklets that the children made, I am still enjoying reading their lovely memories.

Finally a huge thank you to the church family for such an amazing day on 1st November, it was truly memorable. The variety show was just the best!!

Thank you everyone

JILL ROWE

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Give a gift that helps Oxfordshire's wildlife thrive

Christmas is the season of giving: to our families, friends and communities, and also to ourselves, as we reflect on and celebrate the year gone by and look forward to what the new one may bring. But if nature had a Christmas wish list, what might it include?

Perhaps cleaner rivers, more pollinator-friendly meadows, or nature-friendly farming practices? Or perhaps more opportunities for people to connect with the natural world on their doorstep? This Christmas, there are plenty of small but meaningful ways to give something back to people and planet:

Give something that lasts – donate.

At Wild Oxfordshire, we know that nature recovery happens when people come together. That is why this Christmas we are running our **Big Give Together for Nature** campaign. We are proud to support the inspirational work happening across the county, and with increased funding, we can support even more people in protecting their local wildlife.

As part of the Big Give Christmas Challenge, donations made between 1st and 8th December will be doubled, so your gift can go twice as far! You can find out more on the Big Give's Christmas Challenge website: **biggive.org/christmas-challenge**

- Give an experience in nature! Organise a winter wildlife walk with family or friends, or a visit to a local nature reserve such as RSPB Otmoor, Earth Trust Wittenham Clumps, or Bure Park, Bicester. You can find out how to create a fun and engaging wildlife wander on our website: **https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/news-blogs/how-to-create-your-own-wildlife-wander.**
- Make a New Year's promise for nature. Whether that's creating a wildlife-friendly garden, recording wildlife sightings with Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre, or simply spending more time outdoors.
- Gift pollinator-friendly or seed/fruit producing plants for gardens. This includes night-flowering plants for moths, which also helps support local bat populations, and larval food plants for caterpillars. Varieties of hawthorn, elder, and rowan are great berry-rich options to gift.
- Volunteer for local nature recovery. Use Wild Oxfordshire's handy local community groups map on our website; just visit **www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/guidance/community-groups**. You'll also find an array of opportunities through Redirect, a social platform for community climate action in Oxfordshire. Visit **www.redirectcommunity**.uk to find events near you!

WILD OXFORDSHIRE

Wild Oxfordshire is a charity seeking to create a more natural, resilient, and biodiverse Oxfordshire for the benefit of all.

Kennington Memory Club
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Scan Me

KMC Organiser Kay always maintains a waiting list of anyone interested in joining the club. To ask any questions or arrange a visit to see for yourself contact her. We welcome enquiries from anyone who feels they would benefit from a family member with a diagnosis of dementia attending the club.
In the New Year our thoughts often turn to new year's resolutions, so if you or someone you know mentions a resolution to volunteer somewhere, please consider KMC.
For more details of what we offer please take a look at the website **www.kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk** or contact Kay, **organiser@kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk** or call **07852 883496**. We look forward to meeting you.

Marcham SOCIETY

THE MIDWEEK WALK

Thursday 3rd December at 12.30pm
Please contact **walks@MarchamSociety.org.uk**

THE ASTRONOMY GROUP

Wednesday 16th December at 7.30 pm
in the Small Hall, Marcham Centre



Astrochef

The meeting will feature light-hearted talks by three group members tasked with cooking an imaginary Christmas meal on a 'flying visit' to the International Space Station. The audience will vote to score the talks.
More details on the night!
For more information please contact:
astronomy@MarchamSociety.org.uk

THE ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP





During 2025-26 there have been fourteen one metre square test pits in Marcham gardens with a variety of interesting finds – coins, bones and pottery.
If you would like to host a test pit in your garden next year, please contact: **archaeology@MarchamSociety.org.uk**

The Annual Membership is £15 per person.
Guests are welcome at £5 per event.

Please contact: **membership@MarchamSociety.org.uk**
www.MarchamSociety.org.uk
Facebook: marchamsociety

Thirsty Community Café

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
DECEMBER

2nd Stay and Play, 8.45-11.30am
9th Games Café 8.45-11.30am
12th Christmas Fayre 2-4pm
16th Community Lunch 12 noon-1.15pm

We open at Marcham Centre on Wednesday (8.45-11.30am) and Saturday (9-11.30am) serving delicous local food and hot drinks.

We are closed from the 17th of December and open again on the 9th of January

Pay it forward with 'Cup of Love'.

Thank you to everyone who has donated cafe items to the **Cup of Love**, pay it forward scheme. It is our hope that people will feel free to use these little post-its should they wish to.

To donate, please ask at the till.

To redeem, simply take a sticker of your choice and hand it to one of our servers by way of payment.

VOLUNTEERING

Thirsty Café thrives upon the generosity of its volunteers.

Is there any possibility you could help us once a month?

Please email Nicci Sawney at
hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk

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Quiz

1. What is the name of the famous Auckland stadium where the New Zealand All Blacks play?
2. In which year did Prohibition end in the United States?
3. Who is the British author of the Bridget Jones series of novels?
4. What was Beethoven's only opera?
5. Which football club formerly played its home matches at the Baseball Ground?
6. Who was the mother of Liza Minnelli?
7. What is the largest natural lake in England by surface area?
8. What Japanese word is commonly used as a daytime greeting, roughly equivalent to hello?
9. Which was the first novel by Scottish author John Buchan to feature the fictional character, Richard Hannay?
10. Which book of the Bible comes immediately after Exodus?
11. Ed Miliband, the current Foreign Secretary, represents which parliamentary constituency?
12. Which country is hosting the COP31 United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2026?

Answers on page 19

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MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

November has been a month of remembering and exploring at Marcham Pre-school.



To mark Remembrance Day, the children have been learning about poppies and creating their own observational paintings. We were particularly proud of some of our young pre-schoolers who represented us at the village Remembrance Service, carrying and presenting a poppy wreath on behalf of the pre-school. They were absolutely amazing! We also shared the two-minute silence together in the classroom and talked about remembrance and sacrifice in a simple, age-appropriate way.



There have been some wonderful adventures in imaginative play too! The children have been on a Bear Hunt and made the most of the extra space in the school hall for even bigger adventures aboard our Little Magic Train. Along the way, we discovered the Three Bears' cottage and, of course, couldn't resist trying on their shoes!

Our outdoor adventures have continued with plenty of opportunities to explore the changing seasons through our Wild Patch experiences. The children have enjoyed discovering the natural world, collecting sticks and stones, and measuring and comparing their different sizes.

At Marcham Pre-school, we believe that learning is about so much more than activities. We want children to grow in curiosity, confidence and understanding of the world around them. From local traditions and community events to exploring different cultures, communities and ways of life, we aim to give children meaningful experiences that help them appreciate the wonderful world they are growing up in.

If you would like to join us in September 2027 (or beyond!) please get in touch now for an application form - spaces are limited and our admissions process will start in the new year. More information is available from **admissions.mps@outlook.com** or by telephoning **01865 392101**

Nicky Sanford, Early Years Teacher

Marcham Pre-school 01865 392101
marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk
www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com

The last posting dates for Christmas are listed below:

UK Inland services

Friday 18 December	**2nd Class and 2nd Class Signed For**
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Monday 21 December	**1st Class, 1st Class Signed For, Tracked 24**
Monday 21 December	**Parcel Force Express 48**
Monday 21 December	**DPD Next day**
Tuesday 22 December	**Parcel Force Express 24**
Wednesday 23 December	**Special Delivery Guaranteed®**
Wednesday 23 December	**DPD Gold**

POST EARLY and DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE

If you are sending parcels overseas with Royal Mail or ParcelForce in time for Christmas, please check online for last posting dates. For certain destinations, Royal Mail International Standard starts from November.

OUR MVS MARCHAM VILLAGE SHOP — POST OFFICE®

Marcham Village Shop & Post Office
16 North St, Marcham OX13 6NG
Call us: Shop 01865 391993 / Post Office 01865 391940
Facebook: marchamvillageshop Shop and Post Office

On behalf of Marcham Village Shop & Post Office, we wish you all a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year



Christmas & New Year Hours
Wednesday 23 December – 08:30-17:00
Thursday 24 December – 08:30-12:00
CLOSED - Friday 25 December to Sunday 3 January 2027
Monday 4 January – 08:30-17:00



Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat

Tracy's made the window fab, and Naughty Elf is BACK!!



For all under 10s, the Naughty Elf is causing havoc in the shop…please help us find him. You can pick up a quiz form at the counter, and each Monday, from 30th November, you can find where the Naughty Elf is hiding and put in your answer. Return the form to the shop as soon as possible with your name and contact details by 11th January 2027 latest and there will be a prize for winning entries.

And, talking of the Goose getting fat, Christmas meat orders, including Geese and Turkeys, are now being taken and the Christmas order list is available from the counter. Christmas orders will be ready for collection between Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd December between 08:30-17:00, and Thursday 24th December between 08:30-12:00. Hedges are also offering Christmas hampers from £49.99 – please ask in the shop for more details. In addition, if there is anything specific that you would like that is not listed, please ask and we will do our best to help. You will also still be able to order Hedges meat from the shop on a weekly basis based on our Christmas hours above.



Christmas stamps are now on sale and the **last posting dates** for Christmas are listed below. Don't forget that your Post Office is here to serve you and aims to cover most of your daily postal and banking needs. If you are sending parcels overseas in time for Christmas, please check online or in the Post Office for last posting dates. For certain destinations, Royal Mail International Standard started in November



Note that if you are posting abroad, you can complete your customs forms (typically CN22) online, in the comfort of your own home – postoffice.co.uk/ICDC. We will then print the customs form for you at the Post Office - this makes the process at the Post Office much quicker. *If you are unable to complete the form in advance, please note that we require senders' details, recipients' details and contents details including weights & values to enable us to process the customs declaration.*

As usual, we have stocked up with some fabulous and different gift ideas ranging from chocolates, candles, beauty sets, soaps, tea varieties, alcoholic gifts, panettone's and much more - always a gift within your price range – too good to miss, come and see for yourself.

Finally, at the end of another year, we would like to say a massive thank you to:

- all those that donated to the Poppy appeal. To date, this year the shop collected £642.82 – all for a very worthy cause;
- Tracy for our lovely Christmas window display again this year;
- all of our staff and volunteers that keep the shop and post office running;
- ALL OF OUR CUSTOMERS, for your loyal and continued support – **we wouldn't be here without you**.

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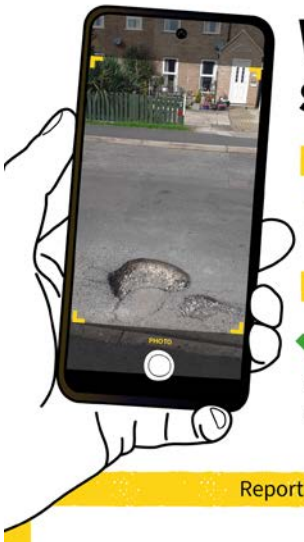

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MARCHAM FARMERS MARKET
SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER

Our next Marcham Farmers Market is on **Saturday 12th December** and we're doing a double this month! Join us in the morning on Marcham Centre patio in the morning then visit us again at the PTFA Christmas Fayre in the afternoon, where we'll be indoors and offering our usual selection of fantastic local producers.

So come along on **Saturday 12th December** and stock up on local food, festive treats and gifts while supporting local businesses and producers.

- **Marcham Centre Patio (10am-12pm)**
- **PTFA Christmas Fayre at Marcham Centre (2-4pm)**

Producer Spotlight: *The Oxford Cow*

As the weather turns colder and the evenings draw in, there's nothing quite like a comforting treat. And what goes better with a cosy winter dessert than locally made ice cream?

The Oxford Cow has a fantastic local story. Their award-winning ice cream is made using milk from cows grazing just a few miles from Marcham, keeping food miles low while supporting local farming. They're exactly the kind of producer we love to champion at the Farmers Market – creating high-quality products from local ingredients and helping to strengthen our local food community.

Whether you fancy adding a scoop to a warm apple crumble, serving it alongside festive puddings, or simply enjoying a quiet indulgence at home, The Oxford Cow's ice cream is a true taste of Oxfordshire.

Be sure to pick up a pint at the December market and discover why so many local people keep coming back for more.



For more information please contact
farmersmarket@thirstycafemarcham.com

Marcham Farmers Market
local food, local producers, local community

SPORT REPORT

The football season has continued at a pace for the Colts, Seniors and Vets teams.

The **Mini Colts** have continued to have fun on a Saturday morning working on skills and playing fun games. The older minis are starting to learn about '2 goal' football as they prepare for a future of being fully-fledged colts. The **U7s, 8s, and 10s** have begun their trophy events playing in group phases to see what cup they will be entered into. Whilst the 11s to 13s have continued their league campaigns with a variety of results but everyone learning. The **Senior first team** have had a great run of results pushing up the league. Good football being played, goals being scored and being miserly at the back. The **Reserves** are bedding in a lot of new faces and performances are improving game by game with points arriving just around the corner. The **Vets** have done a lot of travelling, picking up as many air miles as points. They are looking forward to a few home games in the coming weeks.

As ever everyone is welcome to come and support the teams on a Saturday with the bar open to all.

DAN BARNES

LittleAngels Marcham

November has certainly been a month of reflection, pride and plenty of exploring at Little Angels!



We have been incredibly proud to share our recent Ofsted result, achieving the Expected Standard, with our safeguarding standards also met. There were some words in our Ofsted Report that really captured our Little Angels beautifully: "*Children are happy*", "*Older children grow into confident communicators*" and "*Children show curiosity and stay focused as they investigate, create and revisit activities that deepen their understanding*."
And that curiosity has certainly been evident this month! As you can see from our photographs, the children have been busy exploring, investigating and following their own ideas. Providing opportunities for children to think, question, experiment and discover for themselves is a really important part of learning at Little Angels.
November has also brought an opportunity to pause and reflect as we marked Remembrance Day. The children created their own poppies and joined together for our two-minute silence. We were very fortunate to have one of our parents play *The Last Post* for us, making this a particularly special and meaningful moment.
And now our attention is quickly turning towards Christmas! Nativity preparations are underway, practising songs, getting ready and building excitement for what is always such a special time of year at Little Angels.
Finally, whilst our Little Angels are busy learning and exploring, we are looking for someone new to join our team too! We currently have a vacancy for a Kitchen Assistant. If you, or perhaps someone you know, would like to join the Little Angels team, we would really like to hear from you.
Contact us at **joinus@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk**

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Marcham Centre

NEWS FROM MARCHAM CENTRE

As we head into the final stretch of the year, things remain busy at the Marcham Centre, with plenty of behind-the-scenes improvements and festive plans taking shape.

First up, a huge thank you to local painter and decorator Steve from The Oxfordshire Painting Company, who has been hard at work freshening up the halls. His attention to detail has made a real difference, giving our spaces a crisp, welcoming look ready for winter events, regular groups, and private parties. If you are looking for a decorator yourself, Steve can be contacted at **Stephen@theoxfordshirepaintingcompany.com** or on **07527 433192 / 01865 391155**.

Thank you also to everyone who joined us for last month's Annual General Meeting. It was a very positive evening reflecting on a strong year for the Marcham Community Group. Our annual accounts were unanimously adopted, confirming that the Centre remains on a healthy financial footing, and we were delighted to welcome new trustees onto the board to help guide our plans for 2027. We also agreed on a modest adjustment to our annual membership fees so we can continue reinvesting directly into the building and playing fields for everyone's benefit.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR OPENING ARRANGEMENTS

- The Bar: Open at its usual times throughout December until 11:00pm on Wednesday 23rd December, when it will close to give our hardworking volunteer bar staff a well-earned festive break. The bar will reopen on Friday 1st January. Any updates or changes to these hours will be posted on the Marcham Village Facebook page.
- The Halls: Over the Christmas and New Year period, the halls will only be open for regular hirers who have arranged sessions in advance with our Centre Coordinator, Tash.

If you are planning a celebration in early 2027 or looking to book a space for a new club or class, do get in touch with Tash to check availability. On behalf of all the trustees and volunteers, thank you for your continued support throughout the year, and we wish everyone in the village a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

INDOOR SHORT MAT BOWLS

Indoor Short Mat Bowls – Is now taking place again in the main hall of the Centre on Wednesdays, Starting at 2pm. All bowlers and potential ones, are invited to join a happy informal bunch of players, who have over recent years increased their numbers in an enjoyable and welcoming environment.

Colin Trinder co-ordinates the sessions. He looks forward to meeting any new potential bowlers. This is an excellent opportunity to have a go at this popular sport. No need to register, just turn up on a Wednesday, though Colin will be more than happy to have a chat if you want. (**c_trinder@btinternet.com**).

QUIZ NIGHTS

The next two quiz nights will be held on Fridays 4 December and 15 January in the main hall of the Centre, starting at 8pm sharp, with the bar open beforehand and throughout the evening. Teams of up to six members are invited to come along for a friendly night of banter.

New teams welcomed

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

NEWS FROM MARCHAM SCHOOL

It's continued to be an action-packed term for everyone at Marcham Primary School, filled with learning, discovery, and community spirit.

Last week our **Year 4** children had a visit from Marcham Society sharing their Roman artefacts. The children were amazed to see the beautifully preserved coins and learnt about life in Roman Britain. They had the chance to handle the artefacts and imagine what daily life might have been like nearly two thousand years ago. Thank you to **Simon Blackmore** and **Sheila Tilley**.

We were delighted to welcome parents and carers into school for our half termly **Open Morning**. Visitors had the opportunity to see pupils' learning in action and explore the wide range of work on display in classrooms. Children loved sharing their books and projects, and there was a real buzz of pride and excitement around the school. A huge thank you to all who came along and supported this lovely event.





Our **Year 6** pupils have spent a week having a fantastic time on their residential visit to **Kilvrough Manor** in Wales. The week (9th November) was packed with outdoor adventures, from rock climbing and canoeing to caving and team challenges. The trip was a wonderful opportunity for pupils to build confidence, resilience, and collaboration – and despite some muddy boots, wet clothes and tired faces, everyone returned with big smiles and plenty of stories to tell! They used all our REACH learning behaviours to take part in adventurous outdoor activities. Everyone manged to overcome challenges and anxieties to achieve beyond their expectations on the trip.



Remembrance Day was marked with great respect across the school. Pupils took part in assemblies reflecting on the importance of remembering those who have served and sacrificed. The silence was beautifully observed, and a wreath made by the Worship Council was laid at the Wayside Cross, during the Remembrance Sunday service, as a symbol of remembrance and hope for peace.

It has been a wonderful term so far, filled with memorable experiences and community connections. We look forward to many more exciting events as the year continues!

LINDSAY PRIDDLE

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

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PTFA Events Update

Christmas Fayre

2-4pm Saturday 12th December

Marcham Centre

Come along for a festive afternoon packed with Local crafts & makers, Bouncy castle fun, Christmas disco, Christmas stories, and plenty of festive cheer!

And keep your eyes peeled for our Christmas raffle tickets!

The turnout for the recent community screening of Stick Man was a wonderful reminder of what makes Marcham such a special place. Families packed into the village hall to enjoy the much-loved story, plenty of popcorn was consumed, and together we raised approximately £140 for the PTFA.

The event was a real microcosm of the Marcham community in action. It was made possible thanks to an MCG Community Grant, which covered the cost of hiring the hall. We were fortunate to be able to use the Big Hall, and are very grateful to the Friday Club for kindly swapping their usual space to accommodate us. A special thank you also goes to Adam for his technical wizardry behind the scenes, and to the PTFA committee members who helped bring everything together. Most importantly, it gave local children and families the chance to enjoy a lovely tale of perseverance, resilience and the importance of family.

Looking ahead, preparations are now well underway for our Christmas Fayre, which is also made possible thanks to support from the MCG Community Grant. This year's event marks an exciting first, as we trial a move to a weekend slot of **Saturday 12th December 2-4pm** at the Marcham Centre.

The Big Hall will be home to a variety of local crafters, makers, **Marcham Village Shop** and **Marcham Farmers Market**, alongside the PTFA raffle and tombola. We are currently seeking donations for the tombola. If you have suitable items please drop them off at the school office.

The Fayre will also see the draw of this year's **Christmas raffle**, which boasts an impressive selection of prizes. The star attraction is a pair of general admission tickets to Truck Festival 2027, alongside family passes for Blenheim Palace, Fairytale Farm and Snakes and Ladders, plus a host of vouchers and prizes generously donated by local businesses. As well as the paper tickets being sent home via the school, raffle tickets will also be available to purchase online at:

https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/marcham-ptfa-christmas-raffle--2026

There will be plenty to keep all ages entertained throughout the afternoon. The Small Hall will host music from DJ Biddy alongside bouncy castle fun for those with energy to burn. For visitors looking for something a little calmer, the office will offer festive activities and seasonal stories.

Refreshments will be available from **Thirsty Cafe** in the Hub, ensuring something for everyone.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Fayre free of charge. Donations to support the PTFA are greatly appreciated. Please note that the bouncy castle, face painting, storytelling activities and refreshments from the Cafe or Bar are charged separately.

Whether you're hoping to pick up some Christmas gifts, win an exciting raffle prize, support local businesses or simply enjoy a festive afternoon with friends and neighbours, there truly will be something for everyone. We look forward to welcoming the whole community for what promises to be a fantastic start to the Festive season.

Thanks,

THE PTFA COMMITTEE

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Parent Teacher Association

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The Arts Society Abingdon LECTURE

Wednesday 20th January 2027
10.30am and 2.00pm
Abbey Cinema, Abbey Close,
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Reimagining The 19th Century Danish Landscapes

James Vaux

In the 19th century, Denmark lost territory and regional power but produced its finest art. This lecture looks at how landscape painting was powerfully used to re-imagine a new, smaller Denmark, to create a different sense of the nation and to unite its diverse regions. To those unfamiliar with Danish art, these works will prove a revelation.



James Vaux is a researcher and lecturer specialising in Nordic arts, culture, design and history. He has presented extensively on diverse topics throughout his career to demanding audiences across the globe, including CEOs and government ministers. His talks now focus on understanding art through its historic, cultural and political context.

For more information on future lectures and other activities see

theartssocietyabingdon.org.uk
or email **info@theartssocietyabingdon.org.uk**

Image: Lundby Zealand Landscape

Get Ready for Winter



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. The bookshelf is already receiving good use as people are discovering it.

Space is limited, so
Fiction and Biography donations only please.

EVENTS





Marcham C of E Primary School



COME AND BE A PART OF OUR MARCHAM SCHOOL FAMILY

An Open Morning for September 2027 admissions will be held at 9:30am on Thursday 3rd December. Please email the school office to book a place.

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 **www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk**.

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









Christmas 2026: How The Garden Wildlife Are Marking This Festive Season

As Christmas 2026 arrives, Britain's garden wildlife is preparing for the big day in much the same way as the nation's politicians: with plenty of activity, little consensus, and a great deal of scrambling for resources.

The garden robin, naturally, has appointed itself Christmas Secretary. Perched atop the bird feeder, it spends most of December giving confident daily briefings, despite having no authority whatsoever. The sparrows continue demanding greater representation, but every meeting descends into shouting before anyone can agree on who gets the best branch.

Meanwhile, the squirrels have cornered the nut market. Having spent the autumn accumulating vast reserves, they now resemble hedgefund managers in furry coats. A Parliamentary Inquiry by local pigeons into alleged acorn hoarding was abandoned after investigators discovered they had eaten all the evidence.

The hedgehogs, sensibly, have opted out altogether. Having examined the state of national affairs, they entered hibernation sometime in October and won't be available for comment until spring. Polling suggests they remain the garden's most popular residents.

Over by the compost heap, a coalition of worms is quietly doing all the essential work while receiving none of the credit. They have become accustomed to this arrangement and are reportedly seeking peerages.

The local fox, meanwhile, is staging a "**Cost of Living Christmas**". Having inspected six recycling bins and two garden sheds, it has concluded that humans bought far too much festive food again this year. Negotiations with neighbourhood cats over leftover turkey access remain ongoing.

Speaking of cats, they continue pursuing a policy of strategic ambiguity. Officially they support peace and goodwill to all creatures. Unofficially they are hiding behind the holly waiting to ambush anything smaller than themselves.

As Christmas Day dawns, the blackbirds deliver carols from the fence, the bees remain tucked away awaiting warmer times, and a lone magpie arrives to claim credit for everybody else's achievements. Garden analysts expect this trend to continue throughout 2027.

By Boxing Day, the wildlife's Christmas settlement looks remarkably similar to British politics itself: squirrels are richer than ever, robins dominate the headlines, foxes exploit every opportunity, and the hardest workers remain largely unnoticed.

In other words, whether you're in Westminster or the back garden, some traditions are simply too important to change. Merry Christmas 2026.

Happy Gardening!

The People's Countryside Environmental Debate Podcast

Stuart Mabbutt,

Wildlife Gardening Specialist

01865 747243

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ALL SAINTS' & ST LUKE'S CHURCHES

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

I'm not surprised by joy… goes the line in a song released in November. I think the idea is that, set against the bleakness of life, joy is always there to be found in obvious, unsurprising places, as long as the courage to keep looking remains. After a year of suffering across the Middle East, continuing war in Ukraine, rising prices for fuel and food, and many distressing stories of abuse, we are all in need of ordinary seasonal joy again. Christmas is a time of joy… joy in family, in food, in presents and supremely in the gift of Jesus, born to us. Across our churches in Marcham and Garford, as ever this festive season, there are numerous ways to access obvious joy.

At St Luke's…

Christmas Carol Service at 5pm on Sun 20th Dec, Christmas Communion at 10am on Christmas Day.

At All Saints…

Christingle Service at 10.30am on Sunday 6th December

Traditional Family Carol Service at 5pm and Contemporary Carol Service at 7pm both on Sun 13th Dec (yes – two carol services this year to cater for greater numbers and different tastes)

Firepit Carols at 6pm on Friday 18th December

Crib Service at 4pm on Christmas Eve

Late Night Communion at 11pm on Christmas Eve

Christmas Family Celebration at 10.30am on Christmas Day

So look out for **Joy to the World** this Christmas.

REVD NICK WELDON

Contacts:

Revd. Nick Weldon *Vicar* **vicar@allsaintsmarcham.org 01865 391962**
Phil Rowlandson *Curate* **curate@allsaintsmarcham.org**
Rob Finch *Youth Worker* **youth@allsaintsmarcham.org**
Jill Rowe *Children & Families minister* **families@allsaintsmarcham.org**
Tamsin Gilbert *Parish Administrator* **info@allsaintsmarcham.org**
Ruth Atkins *Safeguarding Officer* **safeguarding@allsaintsmarcham.org**
Website: www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

Regular Sunday services

10.30am: Morning Service at AS
11am-12pm: Quiet prayer at St. Luke's
6pm: Evening Service

Wednesday Holy Communion

10.30am: at Duffield Place

Special Events

see above or click on the QR code

St Luke's Services in December

6th & 13th, 11am: Quiet Prayer time
20th, 5pm: Garford Carol Service
25th, 10am: Christmas Day Communion



St Lawrence Church, Tubney

Join us at 9:30 am on every second Sunday of the month for a Traditional Prayer Book Service in this beautiful Chapel of Ease.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

FLY-TIPPING



Fly-tipping has been talked about a lot during 2026, since the introduction of a booking system at Oxfordshire County Council's Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) in January led to fears that some users would dump their waste illegally instead. A formal question was asked about this at the Vale's last Full Council meeting, and I was delighted to respond that there have been no significant changes in fly-tipping across the Vale.

Vale fly-tipping incidents



This is partly thanks to the Vale's excellent record on dealing with those responsible. A recent local example of this concerned waste dumped in August off Mill Lane, in the south of Marcham: the waste was traced back to an individual from Bicester, who was issued with a £600 Fixed Penalty Notice for failing to check that the person they contracted to dispose of the waste was a registered waste carrier. The Vale is also attempting to identify the contractor, who could also be punished.

LGR & Devo

In October I reported that the process of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) for Oxfordshire had been paused by Westminster. The review they carried out has now finished and the conclusion is that we will continue as before, but with a year's delay. Marcham and nearby will be in the Ridgeway Council, formed of West Berkshire and most of the current Vale of White Horse and of South Oxfordshire.

Separately, Westminster and local councils have agreed that the geography of a Thames Valley Mayor will include Oxfordshire, Berkshire, and Swindon. There is a possibility that Buckinghamshire will join later. There was considerable concern over the inclusion of Swindon, since the it is outside of the area for Thames Valley Police and the Thames Valley Integrated Care Board (the local NHS), but Westminster insisted that the city be included. To have continued resisting would have mean missing out on local powers and funding.

We are now expecting the following: District Council elections in May 2027; Ridgeway Council and the Thames Valley Mayor elections in May 2028; the Ridgeway Council takes over from the District and County Councils in April 2029.

CLLR DR ROBERT CLEGG
District Councillor for Marcham Ward
Phone: 07784 225290
Email: robert.clegg@whitehorsedc.gov.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/CllrDrRobertClegg

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

I'd like to start this month's column where I finished the last, on the subject of buses and the recent service changes that have affected residents in Marcham. I've heard from dozens of people in relation to the difficulties they've been facing in light of the new routes and raised these concerns directly with the Cabinet Member for Transport at the full council meeting in November. In a somewhat contradictory response, he claimed that walking distances to access public transport in the village hadn't increased as a result of the changes, before conceding that residents travelling to Wantage can now only use bus stops on the A415!

In a follow up question, I asked him to commit to asking the bus company to assess the impact that the changes have had, particularly on elderly or mobility impaired passengers, as well as to installing new stops on the A415, in order to make the new X35 service more accessible. Whilst I was disappointed to hear him then describe the overall impact of the changes as 'relatively neutral', I am delighted to report that additional stops have since been put in place on the A415, outside Hyde Farm Nurseries, and the entrance to Willow Farm. This is a positive step but clearly the new routes are still an inconvenience for many, especially given the lack of bus shelters on the A415, and I'll continue to make the case for changes ahead of the next review.

Onto to some more positive news now! Sticking with the A415, I'm delighted to confirm that the road has been included in the 2027/28 programme of works for surface dressing. This will see works carried out along the entire length of the road between the A34 Marcham Interchange and Frilford Road, just past the junction with North Street and Mill Road. As residents will know, I have been pushing for improvements to our local roads since being elected last year, and I am delighted that these works are now planned. Pre-patching works were recently carried out and the full scheme is due to be delivered between April and June 2027. I will, of course, share further details with residents once dates for the works are finalised.

Sticking with roads and I just wanted to follow up on some of the recent patching work that was carried out on North Street. Whilst improvements to the road north of New Road are most welcome, a number of residents have rightly pointed out that the southern stretch of the road remains in a state of disrepair. I agree that this is unacceptable and have queried why repair works were not carried out along the entire road. I will, again, let you know when I have further information to share.

Finally, as this is the December edition, I would like to take this opportunity to wish residents in Marcham, Cothill, Frilford, Garford, Gozzards Ford and Tubney, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

I hope you're all able to spend some much-deserved downtime with friends and family over the festive period. See you in 2027!



As always, if you'd like to stay up to date with what I'm doing around our division, do follow me on Facebook where I post regular updates: **www.facebook.com/JamesRPlumb**

JAMES PLUMB
County Councillor for Marcham and Cummor
Email: james.plumb@oxfordshire.gov.uk

MP'S REPORT

SERVICE CHARGES



I recently visited Temple Gate estate with Councillor Rob Clegg, where residents showed us their concerns about diseased hybrid poplar trees bordering the development. The trees pose a potential safety risk and were supposed to be felled in phases and replaced as part of the original planning agreement, but this work has still not been carried out. I have written to Pye Homes, the developer, urging them to act. Pye has now confirmed that Premier, the estate management company, is arranging a new survey to establish what work needs to be done to the trees.

There are also concerns about who will pay for this work. I have asked Pye to confirm that Section 106 funding intended for the ongoing maintenance of public open spaces will not be used to pay for remedial work that should be the developer's responsibility. Residents also raised frustrations about poor communication and a lack of clarity over their service charges. The management company has now promised to provide a dated and itemised breakdown showing what residents are being charged for. I will continue pressing for accountability and urgent action. Residents

can also support our broader campaign for fair and reasonable service charges: **https://www.oxonld.uk/service-charges**.

FIREWORKS

Every year I have hundreds of constituents email me over the Bonfire Night/ New Year period, with complaints over the noise from the Abingdon fireworks. The impact on animals and those struggling with mental health issues such as PTSD is now well established. I enjoy the displays, and the bang is part of the fun, but I do support Government proposals to reduce the maximum number of decibels. Another key thing is that people should be able to plan for it, and I continue to encourage organisers to make local residents aware of the timings of displays as far as possible.

As ever, if you have any issues we can help with, please email us at: **layla.moran.mp@parliament.uk**
For regular updates you can follow me
Bluesky: @laylamoran.bsky.social
Facebook: LaylaMoranUK
LAYLA MORAN
MP Oxford West and Abingdon

MP'S REPORT

As the evenings are starting to draw in, I hope you and your families are keeping warm and well. It has been another busy month, both in Westminster and across the constituency.



One of my highlights from the last month was spending a day walking from Kingston Bagpuize to Eaton. This included celebrating Ron's 90th birthday at Southmoor Village Hall and meeting the Oxfordshire Veterans group who are fundraising for their "cycle to break the cycle" ride to Normandy. Other stops on the walk were Appleton Primary School, Frilford Heath Golf Club, and the Greyhound in Besselsleigh, where I heard residents' long-standing concerns about safety on the A420. The day finished in Eaton, where Councillor Mark Coleman and I visited two local farms before stopping at the phenomenal Eight Bells, managed by Tommy.

I've also recently visited Lizzie and Tamsin from Apollos Clothing at the opening of their new community shop in Witney, which offers a fantastic range of essentials, all for a suggested donation. They are opening a very exciting new boutique on Witney's market square, which they hope to have up and running before Christmas. If you can help with decorating, painting or plumbing, they would love to hear from you. All the details, including how to contact them, can be found on their Facebook page.

I joined Witney Squadron RAF Air Cadets for an action-packed evening of litter-picking, first aid, bridge building and map reading. It was great to see how enthusiastic everyone was, including Verity, who learnt to fly a glider solo before she was old enough to drive a car!

I was thrilled to become a patron of the Carterton Education Trust this month and to meet Tan, Donna, Rachel, Hannah and Paula. For over thirty years, CET has funded educational trips and experiences for local people. Huge congratulations and thanks to everyone involved. Do get in touch if you think you can help them or they can help you.

I met with MP Watch and, as always, there were lots of excellent, hard questions, ranging from how we can grow a bigger, greener economy to how we rebuild trust in politics. These are exactly the questions we should be asking, and I'm very grateful to everyone who came along.

As ever, I've been out knocking on lots of doors, this month in Minster Lovell, Witney and a very rainy Bampton. My team and I also held a coffee morning in Bampton Village Hall, where public transport was high on the agenda, along with planning and new homes, civil service pensions, and the proposed solar park at Langford.

I have continued to make the case for an Oxford-Witney-Carterton railway, most recently at the Equinox growth strategy's first-anniversary reception and in my response to the West Oxfordshire Local Plan consultation. With the Government demanding 18,000 new homes, we need a firm commitment to public transport, preferably rail, before development goes ahead. I also spoke at the appeal hearing against housing on Shrivenham Golf Course. The club has over 400 members, the course is the green gap between Shrivenham and Watchfield and the local sewage works is already failing. Thank you to everyone campaigning hard against it.

In Westminster, I have been raising many of the concerns I hear locally. I have spoken in debates on everything from Royal Mail to e-bikes, where I called for Thames Valley Police to be better supported to seize illegal bikes. In the Commons, I highlighted the disastrous latest round of the Sustainable Farming Incentive, which opened and closed within six hours. After three awful harvests, this left many local farmers without a lifeline. The system must better reward both food production and nature recovery.

This is just a snapshot of everything I've been working on, and everyone I've met over the last few weeks. A huge thank you to everyone who gets in touch and takes the time to meet me or just chat when I'm out and about. It is always appreciated and helps me to represent our area as well as I possibly can.

To keep up to date with everything I'm doing, have a look at my Facebook page (Charlie Maynard MP for Witney), Instagram (@charliemaynard27) and X (@cammaynard). If there is anything I can do to help, please drop me and my team a line at charlie.maynard.mp@parliament.uk.

CHARLIE MAYNARD
MP Charlie Maynard Charlie.maynard.mp@parliament.uk

OTHER REPRESENTIVES
DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

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

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

Answers to this month's Quiz from page 7

1. Eden Park
2. 1933
3. Helen Fielding
4. Fidelio
5. Derby County
6. Judy Garland
7. Lake Windermere
8. Konnichiwa
9. The Thirty-Nine Steps
10. Leviticus
11. Doncaster North
12. Türkiye (Turkey)

?

INDEPENDENT DIABETES TRUST

PO Box 294 Northampton NN1 4XS Telephone: 01604 622837

DIABETES AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas is approaching and it is a busy time with preparations and planning for Christmas. As a charity for people with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes, we know that it can be a difficult time for people with diabetes, especially if it is their first Christmas living with diabetes. It can be a time of foods we don't usually eat, temptation, unpredictable or delayed meals, extra nibbles, excitement and stress, all of which can make managing diabetes more difficult.

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

All our booklets are free and we are happy to send any of them to anyone who might be in need of some ideas. Just contact IDDT on **01604 622837** or email **enquiries@iddtinternational.org**

InDependent Diabetes Trust [IDDT], PO Box 294, Northampton NN1 4XS www.iddt.org

DECEMBER 2026

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

SLC St Lawrence Church, Tubney,

DP Duffield Place, **MC** Marcham Centre

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	 Find the Naughty Elf in Marcham Village Shop each Monday until 11 January (9)	**1** **AS** TiddleyPeeps 10-11.30am Mostly Books, books signing, Abingdon 7 pm (16)	**2** **MC** Thirsty Café Stay and Play 8.45-11.30am (7) **DP** Holy Communion 10.30am (17) **MC** Short Mat Bowls 2pm (13)	**3** **Millets Farm** Classic car meet 9.30am-noon Marcham School Open Morning 9.30am (16) Marcham Society Midweek Walk 12.30 pm (7)	**4** **MC** Quiz Night 7.45pm (13)	**5** **MC** Thirsty Café with Natural Bread 9-11.30am (7)
6 **AS** Christingle service 10.30am (17) **SL** Quiet prayer 11am-12 noon (17) **AS** Evening Service 6pm (17)	**7** **DP** Community Games Group 10.30am-12.00 noon (5) **MC** Bridge 6.50pm	**8** **AS** TiddleyPeeps 10-11.30am	**9** **MC** Thirsty Café Games 8.45-11.30am (7) **DP** Holy Communion 10.30am (17) **MC** Short Mat Bowls 2pm (13)	**10**	**11** **MADNEWS DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE 5pm (LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED)**	**12** **MC** Thirsty Café with Natural Bread 9-11.30am (7) **MC** Farmers' Market 10-12 noon & 2-4pm (7 & 11) **MC** PTFA Christmas Fayre 2-4 pm (11 & 15)
13 **SLC** Traditional Prayer Book Service 9.30am (17) **AS** Morning Service 10.30am (17) **SL** Quiet Prayer 11am-12noon (17) **AS** Family Carol Service 5pm (17) **AS** Contemporary Carol Service 7pm (17)	**14** **DP** Community Games Group 10.30am-12.00 noon (5) **MC** Bridge 6.50pm **MC** Marcham Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm (3)	**15** **AS** TiddleyPeeps 10-11.30am	**16** **MC** Thirsty Café 8.45-11.30am (7) **DP** Holy Communion 10.30am (17) **MC** Community Christmas Lunch 12-1.30 pm **MC** Short Mat Bowls 2pm (13) **MC** Astronomy Group 7.30pm (7)	**17**	**18** **AS** Firepit Carols 6 pm (17)	**19** **THIRSTY CAFE CLOSED UNTIL 8 JANUARY (7)**
20 **AS** Morning Service 10.30am (17) **SL** Christmas Carol Service 5pm (17) **AS** Evening Service 6pm (17)	**21** Winter Solstice **DP** Community Games Group 10.30am-12.00 noon (5) **MC** Bridge 6.50pm **MC** Marcham Society 7.30pm (7) Carols in the Crown	**22** **AS** TiddleyPeeps 10-11.30am	**23** **DP** Holy Communion 10.30am (17) **MC** Short Mat Bowls 2pm (13)	**24** Christmas Eve **MARCHAM CENTRE BAR CLOSED UNTIL 31 DECEMBER** **AS** Crib Service 4 pm (17) **AS** Late night Communion 11pm (17)	**25** Christmas Day **MARCHAM VILLAGE SHOP CLOSED UNTIL 3 JANUARY (9)** **AS** Christmas Family Celebration **SL** Christmas Communion 10am (17)	**26**
27 **AS** Morning Service 10.30am (17) **AS** Evening Service 6pm (17)	**28** **DP** Community Games Group 10.30am-12.00 noon (5) **MC** Bridge 6.50pm	**29**	**30** **DP** Holy Communion 10.30am (17) **MC** Short Mat Bowls 2pm (13)	**31** New Year's Eve		

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