

# Marcham & District News

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

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



May 2015 Vol: 37 No: 5



▲ Sculpture in the Vineyard see page 5



Artweeks in Garford see page 5 ►



▲ Vandalism Costs Marcham! see page 5

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ WI demonstrate how to tie scarves see page 7



▲ Crowds enjoy Garford's tea and history last month



▲ Packhorse Lane Lorries see letter page 5



▲ Little Angels see page 15



## Diary for May

2 Sat	Denman Craft Material and Fabric Sale, 10.00-17.00	15	16 – 25	Artweeks including Beatrice Hoffman and Julian Partiff, Garford	5
2 Sat	Morland Bowls Club Open Day, E. Hendred, 14.00 – 17.00	9	16 Sat	Plaque Unveiling, Village Green (by the crossroads), Marcham, 14.00	7
3 Sun	Abingdon Air and Country Show, Dalton Barracks, 10.00 – 17.30	13	16 Sat	Wantage Male Voice Choir, Southmoor, 19.30	13
3 Sun	Against Breast Cancer Cycle Ride	15	17 Sun	Flexicare Sponsored Walk, E. Hendred	17
5 Tue	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20		19 Tue	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20	
7 Thur	Polling Day	5	20 Wed	<b>Deadline for June MADNews, 17.00</b>	
7 Thur	Clothes Sale, Didcot, 11.00 - 18.00	17	20 Wed	Marcham Annual Meeting of Electors, Marcham School, 19.30	7
9 Sat	Lions Plant Sale, East Hanney, 10.00 – 14.00	5	21 Thu	Marcham Players' With Great Pleasure: Journeys, Manor Farm, 19.30	7
9 Sat	Bellringing for VE Day, All Saints' Church, 11.00	5	21 Thur	Marcham WI, Denman College, 19.30	7
9 Sat	Antiques Valuations, Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon, 14.00 – 17.00	11	23 May – 7 Jun	Sculpture in the Vineyard, Bothy Vineyard, 11.00 – 18.00	5
9 Sat	Music in the Vale, St Denys Church, Stanford-t-Vale, 19.30	15	26 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00 – 15.30	5
12 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00 – 15.30	5	29 Fri	Quiznight, MSSSC, Anson Field, 20.15	7
12 Tue	Marcham Society, All Saints' Church, 19.45	7	<b>June</b>		
13 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3	7 Sun	Wheelpower Tour de Vale Bike Ride	17
14 Thu	Midweek Walk from Lambourn: The George, , 12.30 lunch / Malt Shovel, 13.30 walk	9	13-14	Beat Blood Cancer Unstoppables	15
			27 Sat	Summer dance, MSSSC, 19.30 – midnight	13

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

Dear Readers

There are lots of events taking place in May:

- you can develop your artistic side and view sculptures, painting and photographs during Artweeks and on into June
- listen to a host of music and singing
- walk and ride for pleasure and charity
- even take part in a triathlon
- or just relax and read the rest of MADNews!

Until next time



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 Other copy: 5pm 20th month  
 except for Jan when it is 15th Dec for both

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These are available free from Marcham Post Office or the Editor. Postal copies are also available – contact the Editor.

**DISCLAIMER**

We apologise in advance for any errors that may creep into MADNews (online or print), or omissions that creep out - we don't do it on purpose!

The Editor reserves the right to alter, omit or hold over copy to another issue. The views expressed in the Marcham & District News are not necessarily those of the editorial team, who are all volunteers.

**POLICE**

PCSO Andy McCormack C9461  
 PCSO Myra Stokes (for Garford)  
 Just dial 101 (non-emergency)

**CRIMESTOPPERS**

Call 0800 555 111 (anonymous calls)

**NHS NON-EMERGENCY**

Call Free from any phone - 111

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Richard Webber, Orchard Barn, Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ  
 Tel: 01235 534001

richard.webber@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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Marcham and Shippon

Catherine Webber, Orchard Barn, Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ  
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For other councillors go to

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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May 2015

**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

**New Council is formed**

The term of office for the current Parish Council is coming to an end and a new Parish Council will be formed from the 4th day after the election, from 11th May, to serve for the next 4 years. There are 10 seats on the Council and 10 local people have been nominated to fill the seats. As the election is uncontested, no formal ballot is needed. Your new Parish Councillors will be:

- Ruth Atkins 7 Orchard Way
- Colin Bough 28 Kings Avenue
- William Cumber Manor Farm, Mill Rd
- Malcolm Denton 10 Kings Avenue
- Sandra Hill 43 Packhorse Lane
- Matthew Hillis 77 Howard Cornish Rd
- Michael Hoath 27 Kings Avenue
- Ruth Mander 11 Orchard Way
- Samantha Turney 20 Longfields
- David Walton 19 The Farthings

Full contact details for the members, will be advertised on the Council's noticeboard once the first meeting of the new Council has taken place.

The following current Parish Councillors Jennifer Allan, and Stuart Young have decided not put themselves forward for nomination. The Council wishes to express its thanks to them all for their efforts on the Council, and their work on behalf of the community during their term of office.

**Howard Cornish Road – highway verge**

Concerns have been raised with the Parish Council regarding the trees in the wide grass verge alongside Howard Cornish Road, as the double decker buses were catching the trees as they drove past. The District Council has it in hand to prune them back.

**Dog Fouling**

Numerous complaints regarding dog fouling are being received. The District Council's envirocrime wardens are patrolling the area, and will issue penalty notice and take action to prosecute if appropriate, where dog owners to not clear up after their dogs. Would dog owners please note that there is a legal duty to clean up after your dog, so please carry a poop scoop and bag with you when out walking.

**Weed Spraying**

The spraying of the footways will take place in May. Access to kerb edges will be required, so it would be helpful if residents would bear this in mind when parking their vehicles in the day time. If there is any obstruction to the road edges and kerbs, then areas earmarked for weed spraying will be missed.

**Best Kept Garden Competition**

As a reminder the Council is organising a best kept garden competition this year. First round judging for this year's competition

will take place during the early part of June. This will be front gardens only. Final round judging will follow. Please remember the competition when planning and planting your gardening this month.

**Planning Applications**

P15/V0517/FUL Demolition of existing house and outbuildings and erection of new dwelling and detached garage at Beechfield House, Oxford Road, Frilford. The Council had no objections  
 P15/V0587/HH First floor extension at 1 Morland Road. The Council had no objections.

**Date of Next Council Meeting:**

Wednesday 13th May 2015 at 7.30 p.m. in the residents' lounge, at Duffield Place. This will be the first meeting of the new Council.

**Clerk to the Council:** Mrs. L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Rd, 01865 391833 clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

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

**FREE**  
 Lots of Flower Pots, Saucers,  
 Seed Trays etc – mostly plastic  
 Phone 391420  
 to view and collect as many as you want

**FOR SALE**

Part set golf clubs and bag in good condition. Bag contains Irons 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9, pitching iron, sand wedge and putter. £20.

Gplan teak bedroom furniture in excellent order.

- Three door wardrobe £60,
- Dressing table £65,
- Four drawer cupboard £50,
- 6ft headboard for 4ft 6in bed £50.

Stag Minstrel Mahogany two door wardrobe £65.

**FREE**

14 cu ft chest freezer, old but good working order. Call 01865 390483 for any of these items.

**HOLIDAY WASTE COLLECTIONS  
 May bank holidays 2015**

Normal day	Revised day	Which bin?
Mon 4 May	Tues 5 May	Green
Tues 5 May	Wed 6 May	Green
Wed 6 May	Thurs 7 May	Green
Thurs 7 May	Fri 8 May	Green
Fri 8 May	Sat 9 April*	Green
Mon 25 May	Tues 26 May	Grey
Tues 26 May	Wed 27 May	Grey
Wed 27 May	Thurs 28 May	Grey
Thurs 28 May	Fri 29 May	Grey
Fri 29 May	Sat 30 May*	Grey



Dear Editor

I live at 41 Packhorse Lane. Whilst tidying my small front garden, lorries constantly mounted the footpath driving from the chapel gates to the beginning of my property on the path, In the end I took this picture to send to you. We need a solution urgently this is now a growing concern. What worries me a child or an elderly person could be coming down the steps from the park – What Then!

Please, we need to make this a priority.

**RAY DREDGE**

**VANDALISM**

There has been a spate of vandalism around Marcham recently with damage to walls, bins, the youth shelter and recently the Institute has had roof tiles broken which will cost the Anson Trust over £2000 to repair. The cost of these repairs will either have to be met by individuals, the Anson Trust or via our Council Tax, therefore covering the cost of this damage will mean money that could have been used to benefit the whole community will have been spent on clearing up after a handful of individuals. Our Neighbourhood Police team have requested that any incidents should be reported immediately by dialling 999 giving the location, time and description of those involved. It is important to report every incident to build up a bank of information.

If you would prefer not to contact the Police you can call CrimeStoppers on 0800 555 111 and make a report anonymously

*What can we do about it?*

*Share your views in the next MADNews.*

The 70th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day falls on the 8th May. To mark the occasion the bells of many Churches around the nation will be rung at 11 am on Saturday 9th May, including those of our local All Saints Church in Marcham. The Marcham bell ringers will be available for at least 15 minutes before and after the event to explain to visitors more about what ringing involves and how you can give this absorbing pastime a try too. Please come along and find out more on 9th May or come and find us at one of our Monday evening practices at the Church (just listen for the bells!).



**2015 Elections**

**Thursday 7 May**

**The "X" Factor by Jay**

When electing it's work reflecting  
On a remarkable thing –  
All the power in the old pencil  
On its tatty bit of string

Beatrice Hoffman and Julian Parfitt are exhibiting bronze (resin) sculptures and photographs during Art Weeks.

Opening times 16-17 and 23-25 May, 12.00 - 18.00,

Lime Tree Cottage, Garford, OX13 5PF Telephone: 01865 391502

www.beatricehoffman.co.uk www.julianparfitt.viewbook.com



ALSO Art in the Barn, Opening Times: 11-6pm 16-17 20-25 May

St Audries Cottage, Church Lane, Dry Sandford OX13 6JP

Telephone: 01865 390009 www.artweeks.org

**Oxfordshire Artweeks**

400 exhibitions & open studios  
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE 2-10 MAY  
OXFORD CITY 9-17 MAY  
SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE 16-25 MAY  
www.artweeks.org

Wantage and Grove Lions club are holding a Plant Sale at the Royal British Legion, East Hanney on **May 9th from 10.00am until 2.00pm**. Light refreshments available



**SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!**

2.00-3.30 pm  
Tuesday 12th May  
Tuesday 26th May!

We meet in the common room at **Duffield Place**. Come and join us, you will be sure of a warm welcome ... and tea and cake!  
Phone 391270 for more details  
**Christine Whild**



**Marcham Village Shop and Post Office**

Mon - Fri: 07.30 - 18.00  
Sat: 07.30 - 13.00  
Sun: 08.00 - 13.00



The Shop and Post Office will be closed on both bank holiday Mondays in May.

**Sculpture in the Vineyard**

- 7 acres
- 30 artists
- 200 artworks

11am - 6pm  
23 May - 7 June

(closed Tues 26 May, Mon 1 and Tues 2 Jun)

**Bothy Vineyard  
Frilford Heath**



f sculptureinvineyard  
www.scantlebury.co  
07949 260111



**VILLAGE CAFE  
EVERY WEDNESDAY  
MSSSC**



Do you like a roast dinner followed by apple pie, trifle, syrup sponge pudding or home-made rice pudding with proper skin? If so **Marcham Village Café** is the place for you. Come and join us at the Scouts, Sports and Social Club building on the Anson Field at about 12 o'clock on Wednesdays? Bring a friend if you don't want to come alone.

If you need a lift please ring Sheila Dunford on 391439 or Jenny Allan on 391373.

*It's not just for children or retired people, if you're in the village on a Wednesday midday, come over and have lunch*

*We don't make a charge for the meal but rely on contributions.*

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLAY BRIDGE ??**

Did you once enjoy a game of Bridge, but have not played for a number of years? Do you still play the occasional game, but would like to play more often? Would you like to learn to play this exciting and absorbing game? If so, why not come along to Marcham Bridge Club on Monday evenings?

There is an annual subscription of £5 plus £1 per evening, which includes coffee. If you would like more information ring Joe Featherstone on 391426 or Rob Hall on 391626.



## Marcham WI

### Next Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, 21 May

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Venue:** Denman College



At April's meeting we welcomed **Katy Dyer**, who told us 'How to Make Colour Work for You'. Katy demonstrated, using several of us as volunteers, how choosing the right colour clothing for your particular colouring and complexion makes all the difference. Everyone came away with an idea of which colours they should be looking for when buying new clothes. She also gave us some useful tips on tying scarves to complete an outfit. Our next meeting is on May 21st, when we will discuss this year's resolution and followed by a fun quiz night. So, come along for a lively and enjoyable evening..

*New members and visitors are always welcome.*

*For further information, please contact:*

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com

Marcham Society will be unveiling a plaque on the Horse Chestnut tree on the village green at 2.00 on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May. This tree was planted to commemorate the coronation of George VI on May 12<sup>th</sup> 1937. The original small metal plaque disappeared some years ago and we have had a replacement carved by Neil Marchant, a stonemason at Gloucester Cathedral which will be attached to the railings in a frame made by Rob Hall. *Please come along and celebrate this special tree.*



## MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

The Club's OCA Fixtures for for June are as follows:

May	1st XI	2nd XI
6	Stanton Harcourt Home	Risinghurst II Away
13	Dorchester Away	Dorchester II Home
20	Britwell Salome Home	Chesterton II Away
27	Kilkenny Away	Kilkenny II Home

Cricket suffered a sad loss on 10th April when Richie Benaud died. He was a notable player who led Australia to success on many occasions. After retiring, he became a highly regarded commentator on the game.

Please contact Trevor Hill (391321) for all information relating to the Club - including playing or umpiring for Marcham.

And finally ... it seems appropriate that Richie Benaud should have the last word: thus, during his commentating career he once quipped "and Glenn McGrath dismissed for 2, just 98 runs short of his century".



CSB

## MARCHAM ANNUAL MEETING FOR ELECTORS IN THE PARISH

This meeting is not a Council meeting, but is a public meeting of Local Government electors in Marcham and an opportunity for electors in the parish to raise any items relating to parish matters.

This year the annual meeting for electors will take place on Wednesday 20th May at 7.30 p.m. in the hall at Marcham Primary School. The guest speaker will be **Cecile Mallet**, a volunteer for Dementia Friendly which is a branch of the Alzheimers' society.

This parish meeting may, by law, discuss all parish affairs and pass resolutions about them.

*You are invited to take part.*

*Light refreshments will be served.*

## MSSSC: Marcham Sports, Scouts & Social Club The pavilion & field off Morland Road

### Quiz Night ALL WELCOME FRIDAY 29 MAY

This month's quiz will be held on Friday 29 May in the Sports and Social Club on the Anson Field, starting at 8.15pm.

Questions are on a range of subjects and aimed at everyone's ability! The quiz nights run on the last Friday of each month. Teams of up to four people are invited, but if you are alone or a couple, come along, and we could fit you into an existing or even new team!

Everyone welcome, members and non members. Just turn up on the night for a friendly evening of fun and banter.

Further details from Trevor Hill - 01865 391321

*Everyone welcome - members AND non-members  
We look forward to seeing you at the club*

## THE MARCHAM PLAYERS

invite you "With Great Pleasure"

to an evening of readings

on the theme of **Journeys**.

Please join us in the Board Room at Manor Farm from 7.30 pm on Thursday 21st May 2015. Bring along any prose or poetry that you would like to share. Refreshments will be provided.

Everyone (including non-members) welcome. Plus it's not compulsory to do a reading - you are free to come and just listen if you prefer!

*For details about joining in with the Marcham Players,  
call Simon Blackmore 391922*



www.marchamplayers.co.uk



The  
**Marcham  
Society**

*All Saints' Church Marcham  
7.45pm Tuesday 12th May*

## Pam Manix Oxford's Remarkable Medieval Jewish Quarter

Non-members always welcome £2

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

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



**Community Facilities Steering Group**

The Community Facilities Steering Group (CFSG) was formed by Marcham Parish Council, Marcham Community Group, Marcham Parochial Church Council, Marcham Baptist Church and Marcham Scouts, Sports and Social Club with the clear objective of developing plans for new community facilities in our village.

CFSG aims to find a solution to the long-term provision of community facilities for Marcham. We are making progress in discussions with The Anson Trust, which recently joined CFSG.

We hope to be able to come back to you in the near future with some more specific news about progress and options – after the distractions of the general election are over.

CFSG is not in itself a fund-raising group at this stage, but aims to represent all organisations in Marcham working together to identify the best options for the community. CFSG welcomes input from any other local group to this initiative. If you wish to have more information on CFSG, please contact Jim Asher (391727).

**CFSG - Opportunities without Obstacles**

**Marcham and District Dog Lovers Wanted!**

I live in Marcham and have just taken over Barking Mad with my sister Jeannie. Barking Mad is an alternative to dog kennels and offers home-from-home care for dogs while their owners are on holiday. Our business revolves around a fabulous network of dog-loving hosts who look after dogs for short dog-holidays. Some hosts have their own dog but most hosts and host families enjoy having a dog without the costs or long term commitment.

We are hoping to grow our host network and would like to hear from anyone in the Madnews area who might be interested. People become hosts for a variety of reasons. Some hosts have lost a dog and cannot bear the loss of another, some work during term time and enjoy taking dogs during school holidays. Others may be retired or semi-retired and have a little more spare time. We have a few who work from home and welcome the excuse to get out for some fresh air during their working day. The benefits are different for everyone but if you'd like to get a bit more exercise and enjoy the increased social interaction that you will get while looking after a dog, please let us know.

Please call 01865 922004 or e-mail [oxon@barkingmad.uk.com](mailto:oxon@barkingmad.uk.com)  
Amanda Powell (Parkside, Marcham)

**MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK.**

**Thursday, May 14th**

For this month's walk we will go to The George, High Street (Map Ref SU327788) in Lambourn at 12.30pm for lunch. However we will be walking from the Malt Shovel (currently being refurbished) in Upper Lambourn (Map Ref SU317799, just off the B4000 a mile out of Lambourn), leaving there at 1.30pm for a circular walk of about 5 miles. This walk takes us across the Downs to the Seven Barrows Nature Reserve and back through horse racing country. Members free, non-members £1. We always welcome new walkers. Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and to check for any last minute changes.



**IT'S FUN, FRIENDLY, GOOD EXERCISE,  
SOCIABLE  
and available to all aged 11 and over**

An open day is being held at Morland Bowls Club, Orchard Lane (behind the Plough Inn), East Hendred, Nr Wantage, OX12 8JW on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May from 2pm to 5pm. Would you like to try bowls or just have a look at what goes on?

We are offering **HALF PRICE MEMBERSHIP plus free instruction and coaching** for new bowlers in 2015, just flat shoes required to start. All welcome.

For more information please contact:

Marion Pointer 01865-391679

**Wanted: Home for Amazing Collection of  
Costumes and Period Outfits**

Oxfordshire Drama Wardrobe Collection has been cared for by 89 year old costumier Alex Graham for 50 years, though the Collection originated just after the First World War. It consists of 6,500 costumes plus accessories many original and dating from the 1930's onwards. Sadly this amazing resource is at risk because it desperately needs a new home. Although the Collection currently occupies 3,000 square feet we accept downsizing is inevitable. Do you or anybody you know have barns, stable-buildings, light commercial space or unused shop space available for free or low rent? The Oxfordshire Drama Wardrobe Collection is a not-for-profit organisation loaning our amazing costumes to local amateur dramatic societies and vintage events.

If you can help please contact Emma O'Driscoll on 01455 884838 (7-3) or [ekahlon@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ekahlon@hotmail.co.uk)

**SEE, SMELL, HEAR,  
TOUCH AND TASTE YOUR  
WILDLIFE GARDEN**

I hope with the new found warmth you're not rushing out into the garden and overdoing it, leading to the inevitable Battered Muscles Syndrome?



Benefits come in many forms from spending quality time with nature. Often, wildlife gardening is made up of endless little tasks but the pleasure of having wildlife all around really focuses the mind. Be it bird song, the new smells and textures that are reappearing on what seems a daily basis now. If you are a forager you may be enjoying the varied tastes of the new green shoots from various ground flora, often just discarded as 'weeds'. Or maybe you are giving your garden a good dose of 'looking at', which I often talk about but is an activity that's very often overlooked.

At this time of year many of us are planning how to make our garden work even harder for wildlife, as well as look good and a place to retreat and relax in. To make a garden suitable for wildlife you need variation in habitats.

Even if we do all this, the simple act of busying ourselves with those not so essential tasks often means we are all walking like zombies and missing much of the pleasure.

Just take a walk around your garden, and just focus on a single sense. Doesn't matter which one you choose, sight, touch, smell, sound, taste, it really doesn't matter. Just choose one, and see how much more you will notice. Just walking around your garden with a camera will get you 'seeing' much of what we all are in the habit of strolling past on a daily basis. Even in our own gardens.

**Happy Gardening STUART MABBUTT**  
Wildlife Gardening Specialist 01865 747243

**Smaller contribution than usual for the purdah period of an election... In an election period, I must be very careful what I say**  
 After the enormous amount of work put in by so many people to Drayton's Neighbourhood Plan, the Referendum turnout was, perhaps, a little disappointing. 91% of 36% is, however, a higher proportion of the total village population than elects most MPs and certainly higher than the proportion that elects local politicians. The problem with falling turn-outs is the consequent risk of elections producing freak results, where very few of those elected truly represent their residents or, worse still, lunatic fringes can come to power.

Whatever I read in the media, much of which is written by highly paid men and women, it is my firm view that the overwhelming majority of those who serve in politics at local and national level, in whatever party, are hard working, caring people who genuinely want the best for those they represent. Many of them are not well off, and apart from a tiny few at the top of national politics, I have not met any who are motivated by the modest amount of money they get for their work. The very least we can do for all of them is come out to vote.

The right to vote has been hard won over many years. Please do not allow democracy to become hi-jacked. Read what the politicians send you, make up your mind, and vote. Then, by all means, hold them to account and expect much of them - that is the right which your vote gives you..

**RICHARD WEBBER**

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or 01235 534001

**Kings Field:** The saga of Kings field continues. This week Richard and I attended an on site meeting with the developers, the site manager and the tree officers to discuss how the waste and water pipes could be laid down through the small green there without destroying the two mature trees - an Ash and a Sycamore. After much constructive discussion, the developers have gone away to re-submit their drainage plan in the light of what was said, so that a final decision can be made. The choice is to tunnel under the roots of the trees and so save the trees, or to remove the Ash tree and replant with some replacement trees. The former will require a much larger machine to dig through the rock, about 5 feet down, and the latter, which I fear is the most likely, will need a much smaller machine to dig a trench. Whatever the outcome, we are determined to make sure that the residents will be properly compensated.

**The Mark Story:** What a great triumph! As former, keen amateur drama enthusiasts ourselves, Richard and I thoroughly enjoyed the performance on Sunday evening and were amazed to be told that it was prepared in three days only! Bravo! The zest, energy and power from the actors was almost tangible as they told the story with obvious passion, and we came away more thoughtful, sometimes chuckling to ourselves and even feeling surprised. The Christian message is challenging and far from comfortable but they put it over with obvious conviction. So well done Marcham church. What a wonderful way to have approached Easter Day.

**CATHERINE WEBBER,**

01235 534001 or catherinewebber@hotmail.co.uk

**ANTIQUES**

**Valuation Afternoon**

**with Michael Welch of TV fame**

**Saturday 9th May 2015 2 till 5 pm**

**Unicorn Theatre, Medieval Abbey**

**Buildings, Abingdon OX14 3HZ**

**Bring your valuables, curiosities, pictures, antiques, or jewellery for our experts to identify and value.**

**£5 charge per item**

**Free entry, cream teas, childrens' activities, Antique stalls to browse**

sponsored by Bonhams in aid of

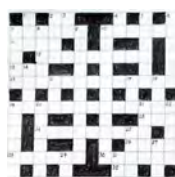
**www.abingdonpassionplay.org.uk**



**CROSSWORD BY ALISA**

**ANSWERS**

**Across:** 2. El 7. Hastes 10. Teller  
 11. Into 12. Uncovered 13. Did  
 15. Unsensational 19. Packhorse  
 Lane 23. Net 24. Believing 26. Also  
 28. Earwig 30. Novels 32. He



**Down:** 1. Fan 2. Eton 3. Le 4. We 5.  
 Bladon 6. Travel 7. Hindu 8. Studs 9.  
 Stop smoking 10. Twenty seven 14. Inca  
 16. Elk 17. Oil 18. Anne 19. Parcel 20.  
 Cabers 21. Angles 22. Ethos 25. Nave  
 27. Sly 29. In 31. Oh

**GARD UPDATE MAY 2015**

We are now in the second year of the five year cycle of the Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) due to be completed by Thames Water in 2019. It will span the subsequent 25 years. The 2014 Plan concluded, in the short term, that the preferred solution to the growing demand for water from London is to recycle more waste water, meaning more sewage works..

Thames Water has endeavoured to be more open and there are now quarterly Stakeholder briefings and separate Technical meetings for the experts including John Lawson, our consultant. When the company failed to respond to some of our requests for information GARD complained to Defra and Thames Water has now agreed to respond to our reasonable requests for information.

There has been no further progress reported by Thames Water on the reservoir options, except that the company plainly still considers Abingdon the best site. Having had the vast 150Mm3 Upper Thames Abingdon Reservoir (UTR) rejected in 2010, much work now needs to be done on smaller options and the company should be reviewing their previous work. It seems they have done very little so far! We locals know that several large photovoltaic solar farms have recently been constructed on the UTR footprint and these should have at least a 25 year life. Expensive to remove! There is also more work to be done by Thames Water on the Severn to Thames transfer options. There are various possible pipeline routes as well as the use of the Cotswold Canal. These transfer options involve supplementing the flow in the Severn by using water offered last year by both Severn Trent Water and United Utilities which have great potential. Essential studies include water quality analysis and environmental implications and these should be completed by their consultant this summer. The cost of these alternatives will be of enormous importance and GARD believes that transfers are likely to be some of the least expensive options and would create an important step towards a national water grid, but there is less profit in it for Thames Water. John Lawson, on whose expertise we rely almost entirely, has studied such transfers for many years.

The UTR threat is understandably low in people's minds at present compared with concerns about all the housing development and the Network Rail projects, but the threat of the UTR has NOT gone away, indeed Thames Water are doing all they can to keep it open as a strong option. Looking ahead, I am cautiously hopeful that on cost and sustainability grounds Thames Water will find it difficult to justify proposing the UTR as the major resource option for 2019, but without GARD the construction of the huge reservoir on our doorstep would be well under way by now. The GARD Committee will keep fending it off as best we can.

**NICK THOMPSON** Hon Chairman GARD



**Summer Dance**  
**Saturday 27th June**  
**7.30-12.00pm**  
**Marcham Sports, Scouts**  
**and Social Club**



Dancing to the sounds of **Vinyl Daze**  
 Raffle :: Food will be available  
 Tickets will be on sale from April, available at  
 Marcham Village Shop, Hayley Cousins (391024),  
 Chris Ricketts (391329) or Peter Kidd (391515)

**mostly books**

There's some very exciting things happening in the world of YA this year - Mostly Books very own Imogen is hosting a YA book group for teenagers that love to read, or just want to try something different, held in the shop every fortnight. If you are over twelve and would enjoy the chance to get your teeth in to the best in YA fiction and join in to discuss what you loved/loathed about the books, then we'd love to welcome you to this new group. Email [books@mostlybooks.co.uk](mailto:books@mostlybooks.co.uk) if you'd like to join and we'll tell you what to read for the next group. AND you get 15% discount on the book if buying it from the shop!

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

**Appleton Rocks – Charity gig night**

With music festivals in high demand and springing up in every town throughout the country, what better way to kickstart the summer than a live music gig night in the idyllic village of Appleton (near Abingdon), happening on Saturday 27 June.

Raising funds for Appleton Village Pre-school, the event is being organised by a former session bassist and gig promoter (Caroline Lomas) and the pre-school's small team of dedicated fundraisers. The team have taken what started as a 'nice idea' to something that is going to have huge impact on locals and the local area itself. The team is "looking forward to bringing the power of music to our local area and putting Appleton on the musical map!" There has been strong support from the local community and this is looking to be a sell out gig. As such, tickets are available, in advance only.


Two amazing Oxford-based bands are playing, namely 'Alphabet Backwards' – perfect indie pop and 'Get Loose' – punchy hard hitting blues rock.

Tickets (adult/teen) are available online at  
[www.skiddle.com/e/12381999](http://www.skiddle.com/e/12381999)  
 and in Appleton Community Shop


**Wantage Male Voice Choir**  
**at Southmoor Village Hall**  
**Saturday 16 May 2015 at 7.30 p.m.**  
**Doors open 7.00 p.m.**

The choir will give a full and varied concert to support the churches of St Nicholas, Fyfield; St Lawrence, Tubney; and St John the Baptist, Kingston Bagpuize. A cash bar will be open after the concert. Tickets available at £7.50 from Post Office shops at Marcham and Southmoor.  
 Contact [jeff.burley@plants.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jeff.burley@plants.ox.ac.uk) Phone 01865-390754

**ABINGDON**  
**AIR & COUNTRY SHOW**  
**10am - 5.30pm 3rd MAY**  
**Dalton Barracks**



[www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk](http://www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk)  
 Advance tickets available at  
 Abingdon Visitor & Information Centre

In aid of  **THAMES VALLEY**  
**AIR AMBULANCE**

**Thames Valley Air Ambulance**  
 The Thames Valley Air Ambulance provides a life saving service seven days a week, 365 days a year, covering the three counties we serve, Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

**Lottery**  
 Win £1000.00 every Wednesday and save a life? Then join our TVAC Lottery, or perhaps become one of our Volunteers. Interested? Then please call us on: 0300 999 0135 or email [info@tvacaa.org](mailto:info@tvacaa.org)  
[www.tvacaa.org](http://www.tvacaa.org)

**WE RELY ON YOU - SO YOU CAN RELY ON US**

**Abingdon Ladies Netball Club**  
**Want to play netball?...**  
**ALNC are recruiting!**



ALNC would like to invite netball players of all capabilities along to their upcoming training sessions in Abingdon. We train every other Tuesday at Manor Prep School and play once a week, across various divisions, in Oxford

ALNC are a competitive yet social team, so whether you want a new social sport to be part of or think it's time to get fitter for summer, ALNC caters for all!

For more information on the club and upcoming training dates please visit [www.alnc.co.uk](http://www.alnc.co.uk) or send a message to [info@alnc.co.uk](mailto:info@alnc.co.uk). We look forward to hearing from you!

Don't forget to 'Like' us on Facebook  
 'Abingdon Ladies Netball Club'

**Appleton with Eaton Tennis Club**



Our friendly club welcomes new members of any age or ability. We play all year round with coaching and club sessions throughout the week and competitive matches in the Babolat Winter Summer leagues. We also have monthly indoor sessions during the winter.

Membership forms can be obtained from our membership secretary Adrian Willett (864691), or downloaded from the Appleton Village website [www.appletonwitheaton.org.uk/tennis-club](http://www.appletonwitheaton.org.uk/tennis-club)

Come and meet us and try one of our club sessions:  
 Mixed Sat 10-12 noon & Thurs 1.30 to 3.30pm,  
 Ladies Fri 9.15-11am.

Our annual BBQ is on 4 May at The Plough in Appleton from noon - come and meet us.

Wow what a busy Easter here at Little Angels, with lots of activities and enjoying the sunnier days.



We have been watching our frogspawn changing to tadpoles and even had fun modelling our new Little Angels outfits! Many of Little Angels have enjoyed dressing up as super heroes this month and acting out their favourite characters.

**Pre-School Room** - We had an exciting Easter, looking at the Easter story and the true meaning of Jesus and the miracle of the re-birth. We also learnt about different cities in the world. All the Little Angels had their own passports and really enjoyed checking into the airport in the Garden then flying into the main room every day to learn about a different city each day. We have been looking at all sorts of customs and cultural differences from using chopsticks to eat our food in Tokyo to making carnival masks in Rio. They had their own Carnival and have visited the coliseum in Rome as well as seeing Bangkok, Moscow and exploring the Statue of Liberty in New York. The Little Angels have been learning about different languages and trying different foods and types of dress. The children have felt very well-travelled this month!

**Baby Room** - We have been busy learning about the Easter story and making our own Easter pictures out of coloured paper. With the warmer weather we have been on lots of walks in the sunshine and playing with water in the garden. We have also been learning about Elmer, making collages and learning about his adventures, as well as exploring numbers.

**After School Club** - Our Big Angels have been very inventive this month making whole new worlds out of whatever comes to hand, using connectors to make robots or wooden blocks to make castles. They took time to explore the deeper meaning of Easter, making palm leaves and had a feast together talking about the Last Supper. The warmer weather has been enjoyed by all, and they have enjoyed playing tennis, utilising the playground and cooling down with water on the few hot days we had. The After School Club have had a new home corner and the children have enjoyed making tea parties and picnics for each other. Looking forward to another busy term. If you would like any further information about Abingdon Little Angels Nursery, After School Club, Holiday Club or Art Club please feel free to call in or telephone us on 07516 474287 or email info@abingdonlittleangels.co.uk

**Against Breast Cancer**

Sunday 3rd May 2015

**Classic Oxfordshire Cycle Ride**

Support the fight against breast cancer and join us on the **Classic**

**Oxfordshire Bike Ride!** Now in its 10th year this is a fabulous cycling event and fantastic opportunity to explore Oxfordshire's stunning countryside. Choose either the 30, 60, 75 mile route or the family friendly 12 mile great escape ride. Starting and finishing at Harwell, the route is suitable for seasoned cyclists, leisure cyclists and families. Refreshments and toilet facilities are available en route.

If you would like to support the fight against breast cancer and raise vital funds to support our unique research into breast cancer and ultimately to discovering a vaccine, contact us today!

Website: <http://bit.ly/1Fh15JX>

Contact: Events Team Emma & Sarah

events@againstbreastcancer.org.uk 01235 534211

**So don't delay – get into the pink today!**

**www.againstbreastcancer.org.uk**



**BEAT BLOOD CANCER – JOIN THE**

**'UNSTOPPABLES' THIS WORLD CANCER DAY**

*Charity Pledge Places available for the Leukaemia & Lymphoma*

*Research Blenheim Palace Triathlon 13th-14th June 2015*

In the 10 years as a partner of the Blenheim Palace Triathlon, Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research has raised an incredible £1.5 million, but they won't stop until they've beaten blood cancer and the charity's 'Unstoppables' aim is to do just that.

Charity pledge places are available to individuals in return for raising £300 in sponsorship. Gold Pledge Places are also on offer, which come complete with an Unstoppables tri-suit, tri-belt and access to the Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research VIP area at the event for those raising £500 or more.

For more information about the places available go to

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

[www.twitter.com/blenheimtri](http://www.twitter.com/blenheimtri) :: [www.facebook.com/blenheimtri](http://www.facebook.com/blenheimtri)

**Dyslexia Research Trust Fun Day**

6 June Oxford University Parks

Has been postponed until a later date.

**For more details: [www.dyslexic.org.uk](http://www.dyslexic.org.uk)**



**Music in the Vale**

proudly presents  
Gli Amici Della Musica  
"Entente Cordiale"



Pat Monro flute, Mike Philipps oboe,  
Andrew Keck clarinet, Mike Johnstone bassoon,  
Adaleine Teo-Richards Horn,  
Giles Kennedy Piano  
Wind ensemble music by  
Malcolm Arnold, Edward Elgar, Albert Roussel,  
Claude Debussy, Georges Bizet  
Where: St. Denys Church, Stanford in the Vale  
When: 9 May 7:30pm

Tel: 01367 718420 & 718344

Email: [djpedderdpa@btinternet.com](mailto:djpedderdpa@btinternet.com)

Admission by programme £12.00

**Craft Material and Fabric Sale!**

A sale of donated papercraft items, threads, fabric pieces and general sewing goods at:  
Denman College  
10am - 5pm Saturday 2 May  
Free entrance

For more details go to  
[www.denman.org.uk](http://www.denman.org.uk)



If you are holding an event within or near the MADNews area, please contact the editor for more publicity!  
01865 391725 or [editor@madnews.co.uk](mailto:editor@madnews.co.uk)

Seen a pothole that needs fixing? [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com)





**SUNDAY 17 MAY 2015**

**EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL SPONSORED WALK**

Two circular routes of about 6 or 12 miles from Snells Hall, East Hendred OX12 8LA (registration 9 - 10 am) in aid of **Flexicare**

(OXFORD AND ABINGDON)

An Oxfordshire charity providing practical support for families with seriously disabled children in your area

Please contact us on 01865 321881

or [www.flexicare.org](http://www.flexicare.org)

for Sponsor and Registration Forms

Home made cakes and other refreshments provided



**THE WORKING WARDROBE  
Charity Event**

**Rejuvenate your wardrobe  
Wonderful new, nearly new clothes  
and fashion accessories**

**Great Prices Relaxed Atmosphere**

**Thursday 7th May 11.00 am - 6.00 pm**

**Haddon Acre, Sires Hill, Didcot, OX11 9BG**

**Phone Sue for details 07721 364212**

**[www.haddonacre.co.uk](http://www.haddonacre.co.uk)**

**Please bring Friends Plenty of Parking**

**Debit/Credit cards welcome**



**Save a life  
Give blood**

**Do something amazing  
today – give blood**

**96% of us rely on the other 4% to give blood.**

Please don't leave it to someone else. Most people can give blood. If you are generally in good health, age 17 to 65 (if it's your first time) and weigh at least 7st 12lb you can donate. You can give blood every 16 weeks, and it only takes a few minutes.

If you can't make that one find another session contact

**[www.blood.co.uk](http://www.blood.co.uk) 0300 123 23 23**

**If you are already a donor,  
why not take a friend next time!**

**SEATED EXERCISE CLASS**

specifically designed for those who would like to improve their fitness, balance and strength.



- The exercises can be done standing or sitting to suit everyone
- No special clothes required, just wear something comfortable and non slip shoes.
- It will improve your fitness, strength and balance
- There's no age limit so it's never too late to start!

Marcham Sports and Social Club

every Thursday at 10:30am to 11:30am

For further details contact AGE UK Oxfordshire on 01235 849403.

**Guideposts Independent Living Centre**

The Independent Living Centre, in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council, provides information on products and organisations to assist people with disabilities and older people to increase and maintain their independence. The Centre provides this free service to any adult residing in Oxfordshire.



We have access to a range of equipment for viewing and demonstration to enable:

- moving around in the house or outside
- reaching things
- preparing or eating food
- getting in or out of bed
- using the bathroom
- going up and down stairs or steps

The Centre has an Information Line available 01235 524857 for information on a variety of topics, e.g. where to hire a wheelchair, find accessible holiday accommodation, find a local or national support group for a particular illness and much more. We also have a comprehensive Resource Handbook which is now available on our web-site.

The Centre is open 5 days a week for general viewing. You do need to book an appointment to ensure that the equipment you wish to see is available. An Occupational Therapist (OT) is available by appointment on a Monday or Tuesday. To try some of the equipment you would need to book an appointment to see an OT. The Information Line is open Monday to Friday (9 am to 5 pm).

Find out more by contacting the Information line on 01235 524857 or visiting [www.guidepostsilc.org.uk](http://www.guidepostsilc.org.uk)

Guideposts Trust Independent Living Centre is based at the Abingdon Resource and Wellbeing Centre.

**Can you help Medical Detection  
Dogs save lives?**

**Medical  
Detection Dogs**



The charity Medical Detection Dogs is training dogs in the detection by scent of human diseases and life-threatening health conditions. We are a small group of volunteers, the Oxon and Cotswold support group, supporting the charity by giving talks and running local fundraising events and street collections. We are looking for help with our fundraising.

If you would like to join our group (mainly based in West Oxon), or volunteer for even one event a year, please contact: Heather Shute 01993 831909 or [oxon.supportgrp@medicaldetectiondogs.org.uk](mailto:oxon.supportgrp@medicaldetectiondogs.org.uk)

Also, if you would like a speaker to come to your local group, please contact us. [www.medicaldetectiondogs.org.uk](http://www.medicaldetectiondogs.org.uk)

**WheelPower Mix 96 Tour de Vale Bike Ride**

Up to 2,000 places are up for grabs for what has long been established as Buckinghamshire's biggest bike ride. In aid of WheelPower, the wheelchair sport charity based at Stoke Mandeville Stadium, the Tour de Vale fundraising bike ride has helped transform the lives of thousands of disabled adults and children in the 12 years since it began.

The ride takes place on **Sunday 7 June** with three routes taking cyclists through the delightful Buckinghamshire countryside and villages. Advanced entries are £15 for adults and free for children under 16 with an accompanying adult

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



**WheelPower**



What does church look like to you?

The church - A community of normal, ordinary people of all ages and backgrounds who are in touch with an extraordinary God. Faith touches and influences every aspect of life and is a life-long journey of exploration and discovery; a relationship of trust and love that is life enhancing. Why miss out?

### Regular church services

*Sundays: 10am & 6pm at All Saints'*

*Wednesdays: 10.30am at Duffield Place*

### Prayer

We have regular opportunities for prayer:

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 9.30 @ 11 Sweetbriar**

'Prayer for the persecuted Church'

**Thursday Mornings at 9.30 @ 11 Sweetbriar** is a chance to come together with others for prayer.

**The prayer chapel** in the church is always open for personal prayer through daylight hours

### Parish People:

We remember in our prayers the family of Lesley Moss who passed away recently.

We also pray for Lucy Brotherton after her baptism on Easter Sunday!

## ISIS Chamber Orchestra

**Returning to All Saints Marcham!**

**Saturday 16th May, 2015**

*Conductor: Caroline Hobbs-Smith*

*Clarinet: Ruth Foxman*

*Music:*

*Copland - Quiet City*

*Weber - Clarinet Concerto No.2*

*Ireland - Suite for Strings*

*Haydn - Symphony No. 93*

**This concert will be a charity fund-raising concert in aid of the Moldova Lifeline Project.**

**Tickets from Denise Asher (391727) or at the door**

**Contacts:** Rev. Richard Zair 391319 (r\_zair@yahoo.co.uk) Parish Office: parish\_office41@yahoo.co.uk Jill Rowe Youth and Children's Minister 390885 Tim Jack Churchwarden 01865 864900 Tamsin Gilbert Administrator 391319

**www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk**



# *It's Election Time but ..... But What Makes For A Perfect Government?*



Despite scepticism in 2010, the coalition has stayed the course, the first since 1945 and the wartime coalition under Churchill. If the polls are right, this election will be even closer than the last, with the two party system coming to an end and even more 'uncomfortable alliances' the order of the day. The result could well bring major change to our nation, particularly if UKIP or the SNP win a sizeable number of seats. It will be fascinating and on May 6<sup>th</sup> I for one will be 'burning the midnight oil' over endless cups of coffee.

During the pre-election debates, most of the party leaders have unsurprisingly disparaged most of their opponents' policies. As I've reflected on the showboating that's taken place, the promises that are likely to remain unfulfilled and the probable horse-trading that will take place after May 7<sup>th</sup>, I've wondered what would really make for the absolutely best government ..... even a perfect one.

A democratically elected government is a relatively recent innovation and in Biblical times, government was by Absolute Monarchy. King David (of David & Goliath fame) was only the second King of Israel and just before his death, King David uttered a prayer to God that his son Solomon would become a great King, one who would rule with justice and defend the cause of the weak. That prayer became Psalm 72 in the Old Testament. These are the words of David.....*"Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness. May he judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice... May he defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy ..... For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help. He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death. ...."* David's prayer was answered, with Solomon subsequently famed not only for his wisdom but also for the wealth that came from ruling wisely. Other rulers travelled from far and wide to meet him and consequently the wisdom of Solomon is a phrase that many know even to this day. Leaders of nations today would do well to follow the sentiment in David's prayer.

But though at one level, David's prayer was realised in his son, the Psalm has another depth of meaning, that could not have been fulfilled in Solomon..... For in the middle of his prayer, David says .....*"May he endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations..... In his days may the righteous flourish and prosperity abound till the moon is no more..... May his name endure forever; may it continue as long as the sun. Then all nations will be blessed through him."* David could not have known this but his prayer was not only for wisdom, righteousness and justice for his direct descendant but also prophetically about one of David's future descendants, born a millennium later, who would one day become King, not only of Israel but over all nations.

If you have ever been to a church Carol service, you will very likely remember hearing some verses that are often read at Christmas. .... words that were written by the prophet Isaiah about Jesus, over 700 years before he would be born. .... *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and **the government will be on his shoulders.** And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.**"* Both the prophet Isaiah and King David were foretelling of a ruler to come ..... Jesus, the promised Messiah who would one day govern perfectly.

Indirectly, Jesus spoke about effective government, carried out with justice and fairness ..... the need to pay proper taxes..... not to favour the rich over the poor ..... and of the need to defend the causes of the weak. He spoke too of the parable of the Good Samaritan, where a man cared for a stranger in need, even though he was from another nation, indicating our call both individually and corporately, to care for others regardless of creed or nationality.

The Bible speaks about a time when war, poverty, pain and sickness would be no more and when Christ will govern over a new heaven and a new earth, with righteousness and justice. This is perfect government..... no need for uneasy alliances, pacts between those who don't really see eye to eye, nor any need for an opposition. Government will truly be for the absolute good of all, with fairness, compassion and justice.

As a final note ..... Marcham Baptist Church is to close its doors for the last time on July 5<sup>th</sup> this year. Much more about this next month, when I will explain some of the reasons for the closure and how the church buildings will continue to be available for use by the community.

**Keith Mersh, Pastor Marcham Baptist Church**

01865 391881 or Bill Dyer - Elder 01235 814986

## **Speakers in May**

3 May	- Mary Embleton
10 May	- Ralph Green
17 May	- Paul Revell
24 May	- TO BE ADVISED
31 May	- Stephen Milford

**Join us on Sundays at 10.30am, or call Keith if you want to chat about life and faith.**