

# Marcham & District News

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NOVEMBER 2020 VOL: 42 NO: 11

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JUST WE REMEMBER  
11TH NOVEMBER 2020



▲ Download a poppy to colour in see page 13

**SEND YOUR CHRISTMAS PARCELS EARLY AND AVOID THE RUSH**



▲ MVS and Last Posting Dates see page 5



▲ From miniature with Pre-School (page 15) to life size with Marcham Society (page 7) ▼



Tiddlypeeps see page 15

SCAN ME



## Diary for November

Date	Event	Page
3 Tue	Christmas stamps on sale at the Post Office	5
8 Sun	Remembrance Commemorations, Wayside Cross, to be confirmed	3
8 Sun	Remembrance Day Service, All Saints' Church, Marcham, 10.00	20
10 Tue	MCG Marcham Hall new sign, online, 19.30	13
11 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, online, 19.30	3
12 Thu	MCG AGM, online, 19.30	11
16 Mon	Marcham WI, to be confirmed	7
20 Fri	Deadline for next issue of MADNews, 17.00 Email <a href="mailto:editor@madnews.co.uk">editor@madnews.co.uk</a>	
22 Sun	Music in the Vale: Linking Classical and Folk, St Deny's Church, Stanford-i-t-Vale, 15.00	13
23 Mon	Marcham Society Members' Evening, online	7
29 Sun	Forget-me-not Service, All Saints' Church, Marcham	20
30 Mon	Last posting date for operational BFPO addresses	5

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

ThirstyCafé – Marcham Community Café is opening in Marcham Centre soon! see page 13



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*Dear Readers*

November is usually the month when we start advertising Christmas activities – fairs, fayres, sales, pantos, craft workshops etc. This year – not so much!

It may look a bit bleak but there are new shoots emerging – people using the hall for exercise, singing, possibly WI and soon Thirsty Café!

Don't leave it too late to buy your stamps and send your Christmas post this year!

*Until next time – keep safe*



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

**ADDITIONAL COPIES**

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

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We apologise in advance for any errors that may creep into MADNews (online or print), or omissions that creep out - we don't do it on purpose!  
The Editor reserves the right to alter, omit or hold over copy to another issue. The views expressed in the Marcham & District News are not necessarily those of the editorial team, who are all volunteers.

**POLICE**

PCSO Rich Osborn C9323  
[Richard.Osborn@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Richard.Osborn@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk) for Marcham  
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Tel: 01235 534001

[Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com](mailto:Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com)

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

*Marcham and Shippon*  
Catherine Webber, Orchard Barn, Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ  
Tel: 01235 534001

[catherine.webber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:catherine.webber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

For other councillors go to

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

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November 2020

**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL Resignation**

After resigning at the September meeting as Chairman, David Walton has now decided to resign as a Parish Councillor. This follows his move to Gloucestershire. The Council thanks him, on behalf of the parish, for his service for the residents over the past 13 years, having joined the Council following the elections in May 2007.

A vacancy has been declared, and the Council has invited anyone interested in joining the Council to contact the Clerk for further information. It is intended that the co-option of new councillors to fill this seat and a previous vacancy will take place at the November meeting.

**Parishioner of the Year**

There was no Parishioner of the Year Award in 2019, and the nominations received were carried forward. The Council is again considering the possibility of an award for 2020, to be presented at the annual meeting of electors should one be able to be held in Spring next year. The Award recognises the efforts of local people who at any time, have significantly contributed to life within the parish. The Council would therefore invite anyone, who wishes to submit a nomination, to submit a short statement of not more than 200 words, as to whom he/she wishes to nominate, and the reasons why the person should receive the award. All nominations to be emailed to the Clerk at the email address below.

**Fireworks**

Again, the annual reminder for those of you who may have purchased fireworks and intend letting them off in your garden, please be considerate for neighbours and the many pets and animals and wildlife in the village. Please notify others when any fireworks are going to be lit so that villagers are aware and arrangements can be made to keep pets indoors.

**Remembrance Sunday 8th November – Possible Road Closure A415 Frilford Road, Church Street, New Road**

The Vale of White Horse District Council requires early applications for road closures, and the Council, therefore, lodged its request for the Remembrance Sunday road closure in case it was required. Given the latest Covid restrictions on gatherings, a parade from the Church will not take place. Please see information elsewhere in this issue as to the planned arrangements. Please be aware therefore that on Sunday 8th November around 11.00 a.m. should the road closure be fully operational there could be delays in the vicinity of the A415 as wreaths are laid at the war memorial.

**Road Direction Signs to New Village Hall**

The Parish Council is in discussion with the County Council regarding the provision

of direction signage for the new hall. Currently the proposal is finger pointer signs on lamp posts on the A415 pointing down Howard Cornish Road, on Howard Cornish Road pointing into Morland Road, and a third into the field.

**Path Howard Cornish Road to Harding Way – Tree Survey**

The Parish Council has instructed a consultancy company that specialises in arboriculture to undertake a survey of the trees that run along the edge of the path, and into the public open space area in Harding Way. The work is currently ongoing, and a report will be available in due course.

**Planning Applications considered by the Council**

P18/V2791/O Erection of 660 homes, 70 car units, local centre with mixed usages, primary school and road construction on land East of Kingston Bagpuize. The Council was very concerned about the traffic impact through the village for vehicles trying to access Abingdon, and the A34 Marcham Interchange junction, and also expressed concern at the suggestion that traffic could use the Faringdon Road through GozzardsFord.

**Date of Next Council Meeting:**

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council is Wednesday 11th November 2020 at 7.30 p.m. To be held virtually via Zoom. However, please check the Council's website for the latest information.

**Clerk to the Council:**

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

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For further information contact the Clerk on 01865 391833 or email [clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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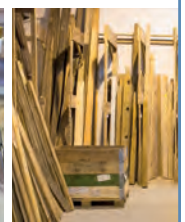
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**Queuing**

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**And please wear a mask**

**SEND YOUR CHRISTMAS PARCELS EARLY AND AVOID THE RUSH**

**Last posting dates for Christmas**

**International**

**International Economy\***

Date	Destination
Monday 5 October	All non-European destinations (except South Africa, Canada, Middle and Far East, USA)
Monday 12 October	Middle and Far East, Hong Kong, Singapore, South Africa
Monday 2 November	Canada, Cyprus, Eastern Europe, Greece, Iceland, Malta, Turkey, USA
Monday 16 November	Western Europe

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Friday 4 December	Australia and New Zealand
Wednesday 9 December	Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Central and South America, Far and Middle East
Thursday 10 December	Canada, Cyprus and Malta
Friday 11 December	Greece, Eastern Europe (except Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia) and Turkey
Saturday 12 December	Czech Republic, Finland, Italy, Poland, Sweden, USA
Wednesday 16 December	Austria, Denmark, Germany, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland
Friday 18 December	Belgium, France, Ireland, Luxembourg

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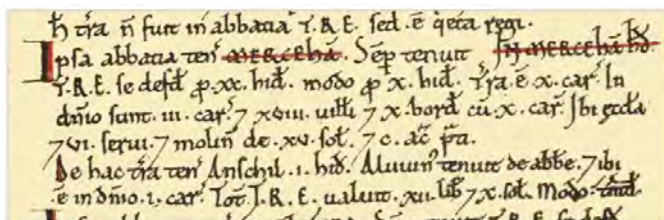
The  
**Marcham  
Society**

**Members' Evening  
Monday 23rd  
November**

**Marcham's Notable Houses  
Sheila Dunford**



**Marcham in Domesday Book  
Simon Blackmore**



will be broadcast live online on  
Monday 23rd November at 7.30pm

Members will automatically receive an email invitation to join using Zoom. Non-Members wishing to receive an invitation should email Simon Blackmore membership@marchamsociety.org.uk



**www.marchamsociety.org.uk**  
**Facebook: marchamsociety**

## Marcham WI

Monday, 16th November 2020

Unfortunately, we are still not permitted to restart our monthly meetings in person but, once allowed, are looking forward to meeting on the 3rd Monday of the month in the new community centre. Meanwhile, we are now starting to arrange some Zoom talks and get together for our members. Hopefully by the time you read this, we will have had our first Zoom talk in October and we will be in touch with everyone about what will be arranged for November.

We hope that all our members have been receiving the Oxfordshire Federations's newsletter. These special editions of the News and Views monthly magazine contain lots of information, including the opportunity to sign up for a range of fascinating, upcoming Zoom talks. Further information can be found on their website: <https://www.oxfordshirewi.co.uk>

Also, Denman College online are now running lots of talks and courses for a small fee, mostly £5 a session, so do have a look at their website and perhaps try something new.

For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com



**COVID-19  
RESPONSE**

**HAVE YOU HAD COVID  
OR KNOW SOMEONE  
WHO HAS?**

So far in the Vale there have been 784 cases and 125 deaths, but how has Marcham Village been affected?

We would like to know. Were you one of the 784 people?

Please contact marchamlockdown2020@gmail.com

Keep safe Thank you

### 'Balls, Bedrooms and Banquets' by John Vigar

*(The Marcham Society Talk given at the end of September)*

We are now all becoming used to using 'Zoom' and on Monday 28th September, 43 Marcham Society members and guests logged in online to hear John Vigar's fascinating talk. He was speaking to us from Norfolk and while most were listening in the comfort of their homes in Marcham, others were further afield in Ely and even in Canada!

John talked about the development of the English Country House and he took us through from Medieval times to the mid twentieth century, following the evolution of furnishings and architectural fashions. He linked the changing styles to the social and political context of the historical periods, Elizabethan and Stuarts, Georgians and Victorians, Edwardians and ending with the Windsors. He took examples from houses that are well known to the audience and open to visitors, including Kingston Bagpuize House and Milton Manor, local to Marcham;



others were further away – some still private homes and not open to the general public. His illustrations were well chosen and well explained; many were contemporary prints or pictures, drawn or painted at the time rather than modern photographs and they gave a personal insight into decoration and taste of the time.

His theme throughout was the recurrent cycle of fashion and social behaviour through the ages showing how etiquette in the grand country houses swung from strict protocol to friendly informality and back again. John's delivery was clear and careful with a subtle touch of humour, so that after an hour he left many of his audience captivated and curious, keen to know more.

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**FABERDASHERY UPDATE**

Hello Everyone

I imagine by now you would like an update on the progress of saving the Faberdashery shop contents from landfill. I feel very responsible for all the stuff as a few years ago I didn't sit on my hands as I probably should have done and offered to bag and price a few donated items being sold in the Teaching Centre. My goodness I had no idea how it would grow and so many people would donate and buy things. The income was used for extra equipment and items in the Teaching Centre to enhance students' Denman experience. The list is long and includes printers / sewing machines / magnifying lamps / irons / ironing boards and many other things. Thank you to you all particularly our valuable volunteers who did the sorting and 'Bagging and Tagging' for it.

Good News – so far – so good – I have liaised with Paula and Claire (from the Catering dept at College) and as they live in Marcham we agreed that the Village could benefit and sell goodies in their newly erected Village Hall when allowed by the government. A bonus was that it meant we would not need to transport it very far. They now have stacks of boxes awaiting the OK for a sale.

I will contact you when we have a date for the sale and hope you will come to see what is there. The hall is easy to find and has lots of car parking.

We still have a quantity of stuff at College so I have contacted Emmaus in Winchester who are taking the rest – I hope – and are open for sales for anyone living in this area. Check their opening hours on line before travelling.

On a personal note I am so pleased that all our hard work over the last few years will not go to waste and it will help others. It's been a busy few weeks but well worth it. Had we not made arrangements to clear it quickly it would no doubt been thrown away as Denman need the spaces empty.

Hope to see some or all of you at the sale in Marcham

**JOAN (SHERRIN)**

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**Donate via <https://justgiving.com/campaign/warmth>. Or send a cheque to: Fundraising, Age UK Oxfordshire, 9 Napier Court, Barton Lane, Abingdon, OX14 3YT. [www.ageukoxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.ageukoxfordshire.org.uk) or call 0345 450 1276**

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## Marcham Centre gradually comes to life

The village hall has now been open to Covid permitted activities for several weeks. These have primarily been exercise-type classes and the choir, Harmony InSpires, has been to rehearse. We really look forward to welcoming the Guides, Cubs, Brownies and Rainbows; Mother and Toddlers, Bridge Club, Kick Boxing, Marcham WI and Marcham Society in due course. We will keep you updated as more users book the hall. For details of hirers contact details and hire times or to make an enquiry please email [enquiries@marchamcentre.org](mailto:enquiries@marchamcentre.org)

We have also acquired a table tennis table and an indoor bowls mat with bowls. We would be pleased to hear from anyone that could help organise community use of these two facilities, by contacting Trevor Hill [hallchair@marchamcentre.org](mailto:hallchair@marchamcentre.org)

Whilst Covid restricts activities currently, there is an exciting draft programme for next year that includes concerts, dances, quiz nights, `real ale` and gin weekend, family evenings and May Weekend Carnival for the family.

**Public Meeting and AGM: 12th November 7:30pm by Zoom** MCG is holding a Public Meeting and short AGM at 7:30 pm on Thursday 12th November. Because of Covid-19 restrictions, we will be holding it via a Zoom online conference – our website will have details of how to link into the meeting. Everyone is welcome – please join us to hear the latest news about Marcham Centre. MCG members will be able to vote on election of directors and other MCG matters. Please help us by taking out (or renewing) MCG membership. Your support is really important to enable us to run the new facilities to meet community needs. Read on...

**Become a member of the Marcham Community Group** Marcham Centre is operated by the Marcham Community Group (MCG). It is a membership organisation made up of local residents who have an interest in making Marcham a great place to live. Our membership is made up of people who are new to the village and also people who have lived in the village for many years. For a small annual subscription (£5 for individual membership, or £8 for a household membership), MCG members are invited to get involved in the various committees, meetings and activities that help to shape village life, which includes the running of our wonderful new community facility, Marcham Centre. To find out more about becoming a member of MCG, please e-mail our Membership Secretary, Simon Talbot [membership@marcham.org](mailto:membership@marcham.org)

**Where have your funds been spent?** In the past month, our funds have purchased store cupboards for the Small Hall and a wall-mounted water heater in the kitchen, amongst other things.

**Road Safety** Lastly we do need to add a plea to all drivers leaving Barrow Close (Marcham Centre and Little Angels nursery) and all pedestrians on Morland Road - take extra care at the exit to the site. There have been some near misses with vehicles leaving at speed not seeing young children.

Marcham Centre enquiries@marchamcentre.org [www.marchamcentre.org](http://www.marchamcentre.org)

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**MARCHAM CENTRE**

**A new sign for Marcham Centre**

In September MCG announced that we had commissioned an artist to create a new sign for Marcham Centre. Suzanne O'Driscoll is a local artist who has worked on many public art projects around Oxfordshire.



For more information about Suzanne and her work go to [www.suzanneodriscoll.com/public-art](http://www.suzanneodriscoll.com/public-art) Suzanne has now done a great deal of research about Marcham. She has worked to create a fantastic design that incorporates memorable places and objects in and around the village, historic as well as contemporary. During the month of November the village will see the design and be able to comment.

On [www.marchamcentre.org](http://www.marchamcentre.org) you will find a link to a video about the artwork and how Suzanne chose the imagery.

From the beginning of November you can also see the design in Marcham Village shop and leave your comments and questions there. **We will be holding a conversation by Zoom Tuesday 10th November at 7.30 pm with Suzanne O'Driscoll. If you would like to take part please contact us by email ([projects@marchamcentre.org](mailto:projects@marchamcentre.org)).** Village groups and organisations will also be contacted for their comments.



The Remembrance Day on Nov 11th will be very different this year and to make sure Marcham and Garford remember in a fitting way we thought it would be a lovely idea if all children (and adults!) in the village coloured in a **Poppy Picture** and placed it in the front window of their houses. We could flood Marcham with Poppy pictures! **Templates are available on the MADNews website.**

There are donation collection points in Marcham Village Shop and at Millets and Frosts. Like all charities, COVID-19 has severely reduced the opportunity to fund raise but we know the people of Marcham, and district will rise to the challenge and offer as much support as possible.

*Thanks for your support as always  
Malcolm and Christine 391497*

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[www.musicinthevale.net](http://www.musicinthevale.net)



**ThirstyCafé – Marcham Community Café is opening in Marcham Centre!**

We are delighted to announce that we will be opening a pop up café in Marcham Centre from the beginning of November\*. Find us in the small hall for drinks and cake on a Tuesday morning from 9-11am and on a Thursday from 2-4pm. We will also be open every Saturday morning from 9 - 11am serving drinks, cakes and bacon or egg butties.



\*subject to Covid regulations.

Thank you for your patience and support while we have worked out how to open safely. The Afternoon Tea service we launched in July has been a big hit and has let us start serving this fantastic community in some way. Keep an eye out for our new Christmas menu launching on 16th November. This will be available via our website [www.thirstycafemarcham.co.uk](http://www.thirstycafemarcham.co.uk) or pick up a menu in Marcham Village Shop.

For any enquiries including if you are interested in volunteering with us, please contact us at [hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk](mailto:hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk) or call 07871 208811.

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

Find us on Facebook or Instagram and email us at [hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk](mailto:hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk)

Marcham Community Café Limited is a registered Community Benefits Society, society number 8384



**Harmony InSpires – distanced rehearsal and new singing masks**



**HARMONY InSpires**

**Harmony InSpires** - the local *a capella* chorus - was overjoyed to be able to sing together for the first time in our new home on 10th October. After a rigorous Covid-19 risk assessment and a plan for us to enter and leave the hall safely, our musical director, Hari Birtles, led our first face-to-face rehearsal for over six months with vocal exercises, rounds and singing songs from our repertoire. We were very grateful to the Hall team of Tash and Trevor for making this possible.

We have commissioned some special masks (from [www.funkymasks.uk](http://www.funkymasks.uk)) which allow us to sing more comfortably and produce a less-muffled sound. Usually we attend a national convention in October but this year we are taking part online with a video performance of **“Nothing’s Gonna Stop Us Now”** that has been put together by Hari from audio recordings and video clips that we created at home. We had never sung it together until the rehearsal in the hall – we had just been singing ‘on mute’ or practising on our own at home!

You will be able to see that performance and read more about the chorus on our website: [harmonyinspires.org.uk](http://harmonyinspires.org.uk).

We will be looking for new members next year, so if you are interested, get in touch: [membership@harmonyinspires.org](mailto:membership@harmonyinspires.org)

**MERIEL LEWIS**

**PRO, Harmony InSpires**



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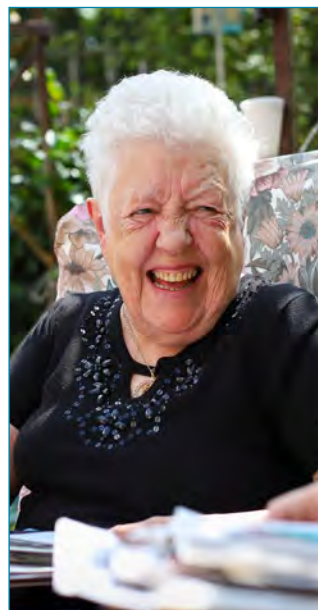
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**PTA ROUND-UP**

*Just 71 days to Christmas*

We at the Marcham PTA appreciate that this Christmas will be far from usual, and we'll be unable to stage our usual School Christmas Fair in December. We also know that for some it will be a struggle to put presents under the tree in these extraordinary times, so we won't be making any calls on your generosity in the run-up to Christmas.

*However ...*

If you intend purchasing any gifts (or anything else) from Amazon, you can still help the school by signing up to Amazon Smile. Every purchase you make from the Amazon Smile website will send 0.05% of your purchase price to the Marcham PTA bank account.



Go to SMILE.AMAZON.CO.UK and the first time you use it you'll be asked to select your chosen charity. Choose "Marcham Ce (Vc) Primary School Parent Teacher Association".

And that's it. It even remembers you're a Smile user if you use the Amazon app on your iPhone or Android device, and it will remind you that you're a member when you checkout. You pay no more by shopping at Amazon Smile, but for every £10 you spend, Amazon gives us 5p. Spend £100 and the school will receive 50p.

The more of you that sign up, the more money Amazon will donate to the school. It's as simple as that. So if you buy from Amazon, please buy from SMILE.AMAZON.CO.UK instead. Thank you.

\*\*\*

At this week's AGM I stepped down from chair of the PTA. I've been very lucky to have had a fantastic team during my time on the PTA, and the new chair, **Lisa Newport (lisa\_newport@hotmail.co.uk)**, will have my full support as we move forward though these strange times.

Thank you for your generosity in helping us raise funds over the past four years. I'm remaining a member of the committee for one last year before my daughter, Megan, leaves for secondary school, and rest assured that being a former pupil of Marcham Primary School myself, I (and Magic Peter!) will continue to support the school for many years to come.

**PETER KIDD**



Parent Teacher Association

**TIDDLYPEEPS**

*A group for small people and their grown-ups*



The group is open to women with bumps, babies, toddlers and their carers, providing a safe space for little ones and their carers to meet others and chat.

We hope to restart the group (formerly called Marcham baby and toddler group) at some point after the October half term break, on a Tuesday morning.

Due to Covid restrictions the group will have to run differently to normal, so before we start up again we are asking parents and carers to complete a simple form online. This will allow us to work out the most appropriate activities and groupings. If you are interested in coming along, please use the **QR code** to go to the ChurchLife/Children/Tiddlypeeps page on our website **www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk** and complete the online form. Once we have responses we can begin to plan sessions. For more information, email **toddlers@allsaintsmarcham.org**



**MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL**

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**Nicky Sanford,**  
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## POLICE NEWS

### Anti-social behaviour (ASB)

PCSOs Ali Blood & Susie Morley have spent time carrying out after school patrols in Bury Street to tackle anti-social behaviour, lots of school children have been engaged with as well as members of the public. Cyclists have been stopped and spoken to about cycling on the pavements and in one case a £50.00 Fixed Penalty Notice was issued to a male who had been warned previously.

A reminder that now the clocks have gone back it is going to be darker in the mornings and the early evenings. If you are a cyclist, please make sure you have bike lights that are working, as some of our more rural villages, such as Sunningwell, do not have street lighting.

**Burglary** We have received several reports of shed, garage and outhouse breaks over the last few weeks with bicycles and tools being stolen. If you would like any crime prevention advice, including a home security assessment, please contact the team by emailing [AbingdonNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:AbingdonNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

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

**Drug dealing and suspicious behaviour:** PCSO Rich Osborn has received reports of suspicious behaviour and/or possible drug use in the car park off Spay Road in Shippon. The team are regularly patrolling the area to disrupt the behaviour and catch the offenders. We have received a report of drug dealing in the street in Villeboys Close in Abingdon. Please call in on 999 if you suspect that you are witnessing active drug dealing.

We have also received reports of suspicious activity in Galley Field, Abingdon. PCSO's Selene Moquet and Adi Wright have recently seized a large quantity of cannabis that had been left in a bush in this area. Please call in on 999 or 101 if you have concerns about unusual or suspicious behaviour in this area.

**Incidents outside schools in Abingdon:** A number of the Police Community Support Officers have been out conducting patrols around local schools during the latter part of September. This was in light of several reports of a suspicious vehicle being seen. We spent time out on the bikes and also mobile patrols across the town. The vehicle in question has subsequently been identified and the owner spoken to. We are always grateful to the local community in reporting suspicious incidents to us.

On the 30th of September, PCSO's Selene Moquet and Maddie Highmoor completed high visibility reassurance patrols in the surrounding areas of John Mason and Fitzharry's following the reports.

**Parking:** Recently, the team received reports of parking issues in Cothill. Cars were being parked from near the school up to the junction with Church Lane. This was making it difficult for local residents to access their driveways and also made the road single track. If you are in the area visiting or taking exercise, please be considerate of other road users and residents' properties

**What the team have been doing:** At the beginning of September, we received numerous reports following the arrival of a traveller encampment at Mill Road, Abingdon. The reports were primarily made in relation to incidents of damage and ASB. A Section 61 Notice was served, which directed the group to leave the site. Once the group had left, the neighbourhood team worked with the council and landowners to ensure preventative measures were put in place, to stop access being gained in the future and that the land was left clean and tidy.

PCSOs Ali Blood, Susie Morley & Maddie Highmoor have been continuing with their foot and cycle patrols of parks and open spaces in light of further COVID 19 restrictions, so far we have



only had to engage with several groups of young people where the numbers were breaching the regulations. Advice was given on these occasions and the groups dispersed. Alongside this we have been carrying out licensing checks on restaurants, takeaways & pubs to offer advice and support with the new closing times

PCSO Maddie Highmoor and PC Josh Beech attended Abingdon Lock, in response to a report of a female in the river. Upon arrival, paramedics were on scene and were able to stabilise the female, before transporting her to hospital, where she recovered. PCSO Maddie Highmoor and PC Josh Beech assisted their ICR colleagues in successfully completing enquiries to find the female's next of kin. PCSO Ali Blood and PCSO Maddie Highmoor attended a report of a male, who was seen to be unsteady on his feet by a member of public, along Peep-O-Day Lane in Abingdon. With help from the member of public, the PCSOs located the male. After the male was spoken with, he was taken home by two members of the Didcot Neighbourhood Policing Team and spoken with further.

### Have Your Say Meetings

Due to the current social restrictions in place, face to face 'Have Your Say' meetings are currently not being held until it is safe to do so again. Please use the details below to contact the team about any concerns you have.

### Contact Thames Valley Police:

E-mail: [AbingdonNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:AbingdonNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

Twitter: @tvpsouthandvale

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

Phone: 101

Website: [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)

## Enjoy the Ebb and Flow of Life and Death?



Autumn has arrived, and we're getting a series of former storms from the US, that have successfully crossed the Atlantic Ocean.

After all the fine weather during the lockdown in 2020, the gardens are certainly grateful for the rain we're now experiencing. Mind you, some people are experiencing a deluge, which is rarely ideal.

Is this proof of global warming, these weather extremes? Personally, it is hard to show any one event is proof of global warming. A series of events, and regular new patterns, are to me more convincing.

Having said that, in my wildlife garden, the slugs and snails are well adapted to this weather. Sat at my desk, looking out the window at my own garden, the slugs are actually climbing up the windows. Chased close behind by a frog, who has been sharing the space with me for most of the summer. He or she, seems to certainly enjoy gorging on the slugs and snails, and fattening up for the winter hibernation.

Then again, a not so tame local Song Thrush is also enjoying regular meals of snails in my garden. Breaking the shells on my rock pile, and enjoying the juicy snail inside.

I always say, wildlife gardening does not have pests and diseases. It is all part of the jigsaw and mosaic that makes up any health ecosystem.

Enjoy your garden for what it is. Enjoy the ebb and flow of life and death, and everything in between. If gardening is stressful, then we are probably doing something wrong.

**Happy Gardening!**

**Stuart Mabbutt**

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

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

**The Air We Breathe**

On October 8th, to mark Clean Air Day, the Vale launched a campaign to encourage people to use less polluting means of transport, such as walking and cycling, for local journeys. Furthermore, it surveyed their staff to see what the difference was in the number of miles they travelled before and after the lockdown. As you will expect, the difference was huge! Of those who responded to the survey (193 staff), before lockdown they travelled a total of 22,399 miles each week, and after lockdown a total of 1,743 miles. A 92% reduction! In other words, before lockdown each member of staff was on average travelling 119 miles each week and now he or she is travelling just 9 miles a week. Think how much cleaner the air is now, not to mention the amount of fuel saved!

Not only is this trend to work from home continuing in the Vale District council, but we see people all over Britain choosing to do the same. Indeed, Planning has seen a substantial rise in the number of offices being added to private homes. Also, there is a noticeable movement of people leaving expensive London and moving into the provinces, where they can buy more for their money and achieve the lifestyle they want, including, in many cases, stopping commuting back and forth in the car....all trends to help clean the air we breathe. Evidence of the amount of polluting Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) being pumped out of petrol driven vehicles is collected up in diffusion tubes (8 cm plastic tubes) attached to lamp posts or other suitable structures along the side of a busy road. These are carefully monitored, and if the evidence is that they show consistently high levels of Nox gases, then that area becomes an AQMA. Evidence can also be collected by a static automatic analyser, which is a better monitor, but it is difficult to find willing property owners to house such a machine. There is one in the Vale in Stert Street, Abingdon.

As you know, Marcham is in a village where there is an AQMA (Air Quality Management Area) which is one of six in the whole of South Oxfordshire.... Henley, Wallingford and Watlington in the South and Abingdon, Botley and Marcham in the Vale. You will be aware that Marcham's AQMA (Packhorse Lane) is always considered when a new development is proposed and so far, it has stopped at least one development and has paused another big one at Fyfield.

The good news is that more and more people are choosing to get out of their cars and walking and cycling, and the graphs show a trend right the way across the South of falling levels of Nox gases. Also, schools, like Abingdon school, are setting up their own diffusion tubes around their campus to monitor the amount of Nox gases there, and this information can be used to encourage pupils to walk or cycle to school, instead of being dropped by car, and also to be fed into the council.

All this looks very encouraging ..... we are moving in the right direction. Once electric cars become the norm we will see even more improvement in the cleanness of our air. In the meantime, when you take a car journey, ask yourself "Could I have walked here today?" or "Could I have cycled here today?" And remember that the air inside a car is often more polluted than outside!

**CATHERINE WEBBER** Cllr VWHDC -

DC for Marcham Ward

01235 534001 or [catherine.webber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:catherine.webber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

It seems that the Planning White Paper, consultation and outcome will be pushed back beyond next year's Local Elections. For most of us, this is a relief. If it had gone through unaltered, the implications for our area were many and highly significant. As a potential "Growth area", restrictions around development would be considerably relaxed.

The County Division of Sutton Courtenay and Drayton, which

includes Drayton, Appleford, Milton and Shippon, is already under extreme housing pressure. An aerial map of the area shows that there is not much room between each of the settlements. Not much wonder that many residents feel we are in danger of becoming merged into a "Greater Abingdon and Didcot" - rich in employment sites, but unable to move for traffic gridlock.

OCC Highways has been wrestling with the problem of how to manage the increasing pressure on our road system for many years now. So severe has been the problem, that they have been objecting to further development at least until major improvements are in place. The two schemes proposed, based on their traffic modelling - one around Didcot and one at the Frilford Crossroads are at very different stages. Now that the Growth Deal and HIF Fund are signed off, the proposed link road and new bridge over the Thames are funded and, if the planning process goes smoothly (a sizeable "if") these bits of infrastructure will be in place and functioning in 2024. Many still have reservations over the argued benefits of the scheme, but, at least there is a real prospect of some infrastructure being in place before the housing. This is something that local politicians on all sides have been calling for for years.

Frilford crossroads is at a much earlier stage. Road designs are being worked on, including a Marcham bypass, but there is almost no money in place to pay for it all and certainly not the many millions it will cost. In present circumstances, it is hard to see Government being in a position to provide the funds, so we are all watching this space. As Sutton Courtenay, Milton, Appleford and Drayton are discovering, even when the funding is in place, a whole lot of other issues emerge.

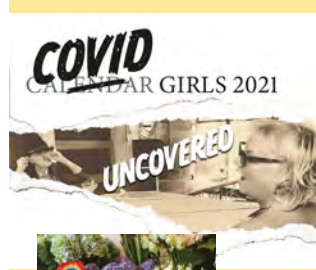
OCC Highways now say that some housing around Didcot could be allowed because the HIF Bid has been signed. This assumes that we could all cope with extra housing for the 3 years it will take to deliver the infrastructure; i.e. back to the "infrastructure before housing" argument. Developers can argue that there is now the capacity for further housing. The new link road and bridge is planned to cope with the 17000+ houses that are being built, and are likely to be built within a 5 mile radius. Many argue that new roads, in time, simply generate more traffic. Many others argue that the environmental impact of all the housing and road building will make it impossible to reach any climate change targets. Others argue that all this focus on our area works against the principle of "levelling up".

And then, of course there is COVID - expected to cost every UK adult £32000 - and that was the end of May estimate.

Perhaps it is time to take a long, hard breath....

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

[Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com](mailto:Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com) or 01235 534001



A small group of Abingdonians are producing a charity calendar for next year.

The calendar will be different ... It will be about the pandemic ... It will be about Abingdon and in this most painful of times, it will be about fun.

Goodness knows we need some right now. But above all the calendar will be about respecting what people have gone through and are going through in these unprecedented times.

**ALL proceeds will go to The Abingdon Food Bank and The Abingdon Bridge (TAB)**

For more information and to find out where to buy the calendars:

[claire.louise4940@hotmail.com](mailto:claire.louise4940@hotmail.com)

**COVID-19 UPDATE FROM MOLDOVA**

You may remember that back in April we had an urgent request from Nicu for money to fund an emergency COVID-19 project to provide chickens, hen houses and chicken feed to 10 needy families identified by social services. With the money we sent Agape was able to buy 200 chickens and to Nicu's amazement the farmer who was supplying the chickens was so impressed that these chickens were to be given to people in his village that he contributed a further 100 hens himself so 16 families were helped to be more self-sufficient. Families in three other villages were given vegetable plants to help them to feed themselves.



**Marcham  
Moldova  
Lifeline**



Chickens ready for transport to a new home in someone's garden.



Vegetable seedlings

As you can imagine, the effects of Covid19 in this poor country have been extreme. Where would we be without our National Health Service, our Benefits system and a government prepared to help pay the salaries of people being furloughed? They have none of this to fall back on and are left to their own devices. How many more children in Moldova are unable to take part in on-line schooling because of a lack of equipment. To this end Agape is asking if we could help to provide the following to villages where we have worked before and there is a high level of trust:-

- 15 families with high-performance mobile phones to help them participate in online courses, connection with the school, with teachers but also access to online resources. One child was reduced to tears on receiving her phone.
- School supplies to 25 families from the 5 villages.
- Personal hygiene materials for 25 families from the 5 villages (soap, toothpaste & toothbrushes, shampoo, detergent etc.)
- Donation of food packages to 40 families (divided into two villages)
- Support for 10 families with winter heating.

The total cost of this was £3500 and Abingdon School had already given £1500.

MML provided the remaining £2000. We will also be funding food parcels for 35 more families this winter following another disastrous harvest this summer.

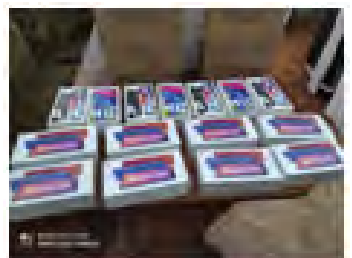
We have always known our help is appreciated by Agape and the communities that have been helped.

The Head of the local education authority wrote that Agape's help was a 'motivation and help to our society'. Oleseia Jechiu, teacher of English at Zimbreni school, has written on behalf of students, parents and teachers to say that they are 'deeply grateful for the change you have made in their lives, in difficult times of COVID'.

***With more money we could help more people. We can only help in this way thanks to your generosity and, if any of you would like to help further, donations can be given to MML Treasurer Eric Dunford, Prior's Corner, Priory Lane, Marcham OX13 6NY***



Smart phones for pupils  
A typical food parcel



**Pamela and Eddie Shirras receiving their Parishioner of the Year award in 2009**

November 2020

**Edward Scott Shirras (23 April 1937– 3rd October 2020)**

**Priest in Charge at Marcham with Garford until 2009**

Eddie wrote many articles for MADNews – not just for the church but also as *Bus Spotter*, one of his hobbies! This snippet comes from April 2007:

**ON THE BUSES**

To celebrate the first 125 years of the Oxford Bus Company we publish two more photographs taken in summer 1951 at Gloucester Green by Bus-Spotter on his way home from holiday. JWL 418 is typical of the 'utility' buses supplied all over Britain to meet wartime passenger demands. However, this vehicle was unique, being the only Bristol built for the Oxford fleet during those war years.

**BUS SPOTTER**



# ALL SAINTS' & ST. LUKES CHURCHES

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



October turns into November, and as the leaves fall and the days become colder and shorter, we begin a season of remembering. For those whom we love but see no longer, for those who have served and continue to serve our country and for all those whose lives have been affected by war. As we stand to remember this year, particularly in this time of crisis, we do so in a way not seen since the first two minute silence in 1919-

*'The first stroke of eleven produced a magical effect. The tram cars glided into stillness, motors ceased to cough and fume, and stopped dead, and the mighty-limbed dray horses hunched back upon their loads and stopped also, seeming to do it of their own volition. Someone took off his hat, and with a nervous hesitancy the rest of the men bowed their heads also. Here and there an old soldier could be detected slipping unconsciously into the posture of 'attention'. An elderly woman, not far away, wiped her eyes, and the man beside her looked white and stern. Everyone stood very still ... The hush deepened. It had spread over the whole city and become so pronounced as to impress one with a sense of audibility. It was a silence which was almost pain ... And the spirit of memory brooded over it all.'*

Many, during times of conflict, remember not only how things were, but also look to a future hope were things would be different. In the Christian calendar Remembrance is followed by the season of Advent, the season when we look forward to the coming of Christ into our hurting and wounded world. Perhaps now more than at any other time since the end of WW2, we need to look for signs of that hope. So, as we stand together on Remembrance Sunday as we remember the past, may we also look for signs of hope, of life, of reconciliation, and new beginnings.

**Back to church?** We have now resumed live services in church. Our morning services will also be live-streamed on the YouTube channel below for those unable to attend. In order to keep services as Covid-safe as possible we are asking people to sign up for our morning services online (though we will always keep a couple of spaces free for visitors). Evening services do not need to be signed up for. This is open to all and can be found under the 'services' tab on our website. There is also more information there on what to expect as services are different.

**YouTube Church**  
10am Sunday morning on our YouTube channel and then available to watch anytime.  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzLePXEjyP7\\_WRWfyHr1rmg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzLePXEjyP7_WRWfyHr1rmg)

**Tiddlypeeps**  
for small people and their grown-ups.  
If you'd like to get involved, please see our webpage > church life > Children > Tiddlypeeps for more information

**Contacts:**  
**Mark Newman** Chaplain to the Parish [chaplain@allsaintsmarcham.org](mailto:chaplain@allsaintsmarcham.org) **Jill Rowe** Children's and families Minister 391168 [families@allsaintsmarcham.org](mailto:families@allsaintsmarcham.org) **Rob Finch** Youth Worker 07888331708, [rob@marchamyouth.org](mailto:rob@marchamyouth.org) **Tamsin Gilbert** Parish Administrator & Churchwarden [info@allsaintsmarcham.org](mailto:info@allsaintsmarcham.org) **Neil Rowe** Churchwarden 391168

**Marking Remembrance Day**  
**Colour a poppy** – download and print a poppy from the MAD news website and colour it to put in your window – lets turn the village red!  
**Paint a poppy** – paint a poppy on a stone and place it along the paths of the churchyard – maybe we can outline the whole path!  
**Remembrance Day service** – please do tune in to our YouTube channel (see below) for a live-streamed service of Remembrance at 10am on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November.  
**Two minute silence** – stand on your doorstep at 11am for a two minute silence – the end of which will be marked by the chiming of a church bell.

**Christmas Craft Morning** – we are working hard to work out a way of doing this safely in collaboration with Thirsty Café on the 5<sup>th</sup> December. Look out for further details on our website and Facebook page.  
**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November** – Forget-me-not service – a service of remembering for those we love but see no longer