



# Marcham & District News

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

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

APRIL 2023 VOL: 45 No: 4

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ Little Angels in the woods see page 11



▲ Live Podcast with the Wildman see page 17



▲ Easter goodies see page 5

### Bank Holiday 2022/3 Waste Collections

~~Wednesday 12 April~~

**Thursday 13 April**

**Green, Food & Garden Waste**



▲ World Book Day at Marcham School see page 11

## April Diary

1 Sat	Share Your Story, SOFO, Woodstock Museum, 11.00-15.00	17	20 Thu	Deadline for next issue of MADNews, 17.00 Email <a href="mailto:editor@madnews.co.uk">editor@madnews.co.uk</a>	
4 Fri	Deadline for Parish Council Nominations	3	21 Fri	Family Bingo, Marcham Centre, 19.30	15
8 Sat	Family Easter Egg Hunt, Marcham Centre, 12.00-14.00	15	22 Sat	Open Afternoon, Milton Hill Bowling Club, 13.30-16.30	9
11 Tue	Marcham Village Shop reopens after Easter	5	23 Sun	Open Morning, Milton Hill Bowling Club, 10.00-12.30	9
11 Tue	Parish Council Meeting, Marcham Village Hall, Marcham Centre. 19.30	5	24 Mon	Marcham Society: Members Evening, Marcham Centre, 19.15	9
17 Mon	Deadline to complete Health Survey	19	25 Tue	Deadline for applications for Photo ID to vote, 17.00	3
17 Mon	Marcham WI: Unseen, Marcham Centre, 19.30	9	25 Tue	Deadline for application for proxy vote	3
18 Tue	Deadline for applications for postal vote	3	29 Sat	Marcham Litter Pick, Community Hub, 09.30	5
19 Wed	AgeUK at Thirsty Café, Marcham Centre, 09.00-11.30	13			
19 Wed	Abingdon Arts Society, Abbey Cinema, 10.30 & 14.00	15			

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

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Dear Readers

After reading Jean's letter (see page 5) I have tried to find phone numbers or addresses for groups, but not been 100% successful.

It is important that everyone has equal access to information; the internet is a fantastic way to disseminate information but if part of your audience is being excluded, additional ways need to be found. MADNews has always striven to share information amongst the whole community and I am sorry I hadn't considered this more fully before.

Until the next time  
Happy Easter!



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Jane Mander  
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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.

**DISCLAIMER**

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

**POLICE**

PCSO Rich Osborn C9323  
[Richard.Osborn@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Richard.Osborn@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk) for Marcham  
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[Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com](mailto:Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com)

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Marcham and Shippon  
Catherine Webber, Orchard Barn, Sutton  
Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ  
Tel: 07357 464699  
[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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**Frilford Parish Meeting  
AGM will be at Abingdon  
Prep School, Frilford at 7pm  
on Wednesday 12th April  
ALL WELCOME**

**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL  
Elections**

Elections are being held on Thursday 4th May, 2023 for both the Vale of White Horse District Council, and Parish Councils. Councillors serve for period of 4 years.

A parish/town council is a local authority that makes decisions on behalf of the people in the parish. It is the level of local government closest to the community,

There are 10 seats on Marcham Parish Council, all of which become available.

*Why not consider joining?*

- Representing the views of residents within our parish.
- Run local services, such as the play areas, open spaces, cemetery, and allotments.
- Deciding on how much to raise through council tax in order to deliver those services.
- Influencing and shaping the long term development policy for the parish, helping to undertake a Neighbourhood Plan, and as part of the planning process, comment on planning applications in the parish.
- Improving the quality of life and the environment in or local area.
- Working to identify issues which are important to the lives of the residents you represent.
- Working to bring about improvements through local projects.
- Lobbying other service providers and working in partnership with other parishes and agencies.

The Council meets monthly, except August. Any candidate is not obligated to a long commitment, as it is possible to resign before the next election, if required.

The Notice of the Election is now out, any one who wishes to join the Parish Council can obtain the nomination pack from the Electoral Commission's website.

[www.electoralcommission.org.uk/media/5016](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/media/5016)

N.B. The deadline for submission of the nomination which has to be delivered to the Vale of White Horse District Council offices is 4.00 p.m. on Friday 4th April.

**Voting on Election day – Thursday 4th May – Key dates**

Don't forget you will need to be on the electoral roll for the parish in order to vote. If you need to apply for a postal vote, the deadline is Tuesday 18th April. If you wish to appoint a proxy to vote for you, the deadline is Tuesday 25th April. Photo ID will be required in order to vote in person at the election. If you do not have any photo ID, you can apply

for voter ID by 5.00 p.m. on 25th April. Further information and the forms on which to apply for postal vote, proxy, or voter ID, are on the District Council's website. [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk), call 01235 422 422, see the poster on page 7 or the County Councillor's report on page 18.

**Play Area**

The Council would like to thank everyone who took part in the consultation on the proposed new play area, and who took the time to complete and return the survey form. These are being analysed and the comments are currently being studied. They will help guide the plans as they progress.

**Annual Meeting of Electors**

The Annual meeting of electors currently is scheduled to take place on **Wednesday 24th May**, at 7.30 p.m. in the new village hall. A decision has been made not to have a guest speaker this year to allow more time for local reports to be given. There is much going on in the parish, so we will hear about the new play area, and progress with the Neighbourhood Plan.

**Parishioner of the Year**

The Council is again considering the possibility of an award for 2022, to be presented at the annual meeting of electors later this year. The Award recognises the efforts of local people who, at any time, have significantly contributed to life within the parish. The Council would invite anyone who wishes to put forward a new suggestion, to submit a short statement of not more than 200 words, as to whom he/she wishes to nominate, and the reasons why the person should receive the award. All nominations to be emailed to the Clerk at the email address below. All names previously given will be carried forward and added to the ones received. The Council has a working group who prepares a short list from which the Council selects the worthy recipient.

**Mill Road – Bridleway 17**

Plans are progressing with the aim of delivering the repairs to the bridge this spring. Issues which delayed the project last autumn have been addressed, and project delivery meetings have recommenced. The final construction plans are currently being considered by Oxfordshire County Council, and once approved, they will firm up the delivery programme. Residents will be further advised once the works programme is set.

**Brize Norton Air Space – Change proposals draft design principles**

RAF Brize Norton intends to redesign the current controlled airspace to the appropriate volume to support RAF Brize Norton's operations. It has undertaken consultation on its key principles that it seeks to include in its draft design. These include self evident issues such as providing a safe environment for all airspace users and minimising the impact to other airspace users. The Parish Council had no comment to make on the principles, and awaits the next stage consultation on the actual options. It will keep a close eye on what is being planned in case Marcham is affected.

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**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
*continued*

**Parkside – junction with New Road – Bench Seat**

The Parish Council is looking to replace the bench seat at the corner of Parkside at its junction with New Road. This is likely to be sited on the other corner away from the Gigaclear cabinet. Steps are being made to liaise with Oxfordshire County Council who need to grant permission for street furniture.

**Planning applications**

P23/V0374/HH – Extend the dropped kerb at the front westwards at 75 Howard Cornish Road

The Council had no objections.

**Date of Next Council Meeting:**

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 11th April, 2023 at 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall, Barrow Close OX13 6TY.

*Please note that this is one day later than usual, owing to the fact that Monday 10th is Easter Monday*

Please check the Council's website [www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk) in case arrangements change.

**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)

*Dear Editor*

I would like to make a request regarding the contact details of the various events and groups who contribute to MADNews.

There are some people who do not have access to the internet or email and where only an email address has been provided as a means of contact, this unfortunately leads to some members of our village community being unable to connect with these groups or individuals.

Please may I kindly ask that phone numbers or addresses are also provided wherever possible in order to ensure there is equal access and means of contact for all.

*Thank you*  
**JEAN CREASY**

**Advance Notice of Village-wide Litter Pick**



There will be a village-wide litter pick on Saturday 29 April starting at 9:30 am

Meeting Point the Community Hub  
*Children must be accompanied by an adult.*

Litter Pickers and protective equipment will be provided

Updates on the Village FB page

THANK YOU

Malcolm Denton

01865391497 / 07516761040

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**Easter Hours**  
**We will be closed**  
**Friday 7th-Monday 10th April**  
**and reopen on**  
**Tuesday 11th April at 8.30am**

Spring is in the air, Mothering Sunday has now passed and Easter is fast approaching. We hope that we are and were able to provide you with some nice gifts and cards.

Easter Sunday will be 9 April and, even though we don't sell traditional standard Easter eggs, we do sell a selection of boxed chocolates and other gifts, some lovely Easter cards and some very tasty small eggs. *Come in and have a look!*

Once the weather gets a bit warmer, we are hoping to stock some garden supplies ie flowering plants, tools, compost etc. Barbecues will also be back on the scene, and we will have stock to get the barbie going and then items to cook, and of course, a good selection of drinks to keep you all hydrated. Keep an eye out for these new items.

We aim to please and your little shop stocks a huge range of everyday and special-day items. We are also open to suggestions for new items, so do let us know if there is something that you think would be a useful addition.

Thank you to everyone for supporting your local Village Shop and Post Office and we look forward to seeing you again very soon. Volunteers are always welcome, and we only require 2 hours of your time a week. Please come into the shop and let us know if you're interested.

Don't forget that opening and closing times for the Shop and Post Office have changed. As a reminder, our **NEW** times are as below:

**Monday – Friday**  
**0830-1700**  
**Saturday: 0830-1200**  
**Sundays & Bank holidays: Closed**

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The easiest option is to do your postage online and bring it in for us to process. These will now take a bit more time, as we need to transfer the information already written on the customs forms onto the Post Office computer. If you can fill out the forms in advance, it would help and be a time-saver for us all!

**As a guide.**

- If you are sending something abroad **worth between £10 - £50**, and not so worried about how and when it gets there? Please ask for a **CN22B barcoded customs label**.
- If you are sending something abroad **worth more than £50**, ideally you would want to send it via one of our tracked services? Please ask for a **CN22A non-barcoded customs label**.
- However, if you are sending something abroad **worth £270+.** Please ask for a **CN23 customs label**.

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**Vale of White Horse  
District Council**

# LOCAL ELECTIONS 2023

**It's time to choose who represents you**

**On Thursday 4 May 2023, everyone aged 18 or over who is eligible will have the chance to vote in the district council election.**

By voting in this election, you will help to choose local councillors to make decisions on important issues, such as where we should focus our efforts locally to help tackle climate change, where and how new housing gets built, how we work to ensure there's enough affordable housing and much more.

Residents in some areas will also be able to vote in parish council elections.

For all you need to know about the local elections, visit our website [whitehorsedc.gov.uk/elections](http://whitehorsedc.gov.uk/elections)

**New for 2023 – to vote at a polling station in this election you must bring photo ID!**

At this election, you will need to bring photo ID with you to be able to vote at a polling station. A wide range of photo ID will be accepted, including passports, driving licences, a disabled parking blue badge and proof of age PASS ID cards.

If you don't have an accepted form of photo ID, you can APPLY NOW for a free voter ID document known as a Voter Authority Certificate.

The deadline to apply for this election is 5pm on Tuesday 25 April.

Visit [electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID](http://electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID) or call 0800 328 0280.



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# Marcham WI

Next Meeting:

7.30pm Monday, 17th April 2023

At the Marcham Centre



**Speaker: Unseen - Modern Day Slavery**

For our April meeting, we will be welcoming a speaker from the UK Charity, **Unseen**. They will tell us about their work in providing safehouses and support in the community for survivors of trafficking and modern slavery. They also run a helpline and work with individuals, communities, businesses and governments, other charities and statutory agencies to stamp out slavery for good. We hope you come along to find out more, and become more aware, about this unseen problem.

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com



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## MILTON HILL BOWLING CLUB

Potash Lane, Milton Heights, OX14 4DR  
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The club is holding **open sessions** between 13:30 – 16:30 on **Saturday 22nd April** or 10.00 – 12.30 on **Sunday 23rd April**. Come and try your hand at Green Bowling, no booking is required, just turn up. Bowls are for all ages and a fun way to keep fit and flexible. No experience is necessary! We would prefer you to wear trainers, but overshoes can be provided. See our website for more details or contact Colin Trinder 01865 391718



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**Monday 24th April**  
**7.15 for 7.45pm**  
**Main Hall**  
**Marcham Centre**

## Members Evening

To begin the evening, there will be a short talk

*Gozzards Ford and the Turnpike Road*

After a break for refreshments, there will be a 30 minute film:



## DAY BY DAY REMASTERED

Day By Day is a 30-minute film, made in 1993 and whose purpose was to promote the role of the Church within the village. This short film has recently been restored and on Members Evening there will be the first public screening of this remastered snapshot of Marcham from 30 years ago.

### Upcoming Events (please check with the organisers)

- Thursday, 13th April 12.30pm: Marcham Society Midweek Walk – for more details contact [e.dunford@btinternet.com](mailto:e.dunford@btinternet.com) 01865 391439
- Thursday, 20th April 7pm: Marcham Society Astronomy Group, Small Hall at Marcham Centre – for more details contact [jim.asher@btinternet.com](mailto:jim.asher@btinternet.com) 01865 391727

For more information contact [membership@marchamsociety.org.uk](mailto:membership@marchamsociety.org.uk)

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A recent visit to Kingston Bagpuize House

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What a busy month March has been. We started the month with St David's day where we celebrated and discussed Wales and ate Welsh cakes, the children all had the opportunity to make their own **Daffodils**, and this moved us nicely onto our topic of spring.



**Yellow Room**

The month has been full of spring, the children have made butterflies, rain clouds and suns with a variety of sensory trays to stimulate their senses. Along with this the children have been out for walks around the village looking for daffodils and spring flowers along with the blossom in the trees. The Yellow Room have also been creating a small world section of farms, here the children have had lots of fun playing along with washing the animals and splashing the ducks in the duck pond.

**Teal and Green Room**

Spring is also the main theme in the room, we have been exploring a sensory tray for spring! We have lots of animals in their dens waiting for the arrival of their babies, there are even some hidden bugs emerging from the ground! The children have enjoyed exploring the different textures and even had to rescue bugs from a spider's web ( cleverly made with a white tray, Sellotape and bugs). Spring garden have been created in our indoor reading gardens and spring displays have been created to decorate the walls.

An exciting day was had when a **sensory walk** was created in the garden using boxes and trays, each filled with different resources, e.g. mud, straw, stones, and the children were blindfolded and holding a hand had to walk through each tray to feel how different it felt. It was great activity producing lots of new words and feelings for the Little Angels.

For **World Book Day** we set up a Gruffalo cave and deep dark woods! The Little Angels enjoyed looking at the bugs and exploring the leaves and flowers. We even recited some parts of the book when we explored the tray. This was then taken further, and we went into the wooded area by the park, 'the Gruffalo's house' and read The Gruffalo! Wow!! It was amazing. Due to the weather we had to stand as the ground was wet, but we made it work!! We then went and found a fox's home; we looked up in the tree to look for Owl and all searched for a snakes but happily we could not find any. We then returned to the nursery for a feast of Gruffalo knobbly knees, Gruffalo claws, swirly snakes, and Gruffalo crumble. This rally brought the story to life. On our way back to Nursery, we then found ducks and chickens and we also found snowdrops, the first sign of spring.

**Mother's Day**

The Little Angels all worked hard on their cards and Mother's Day gifts and hope you all had a wonderful mothering Sunday.



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

T: 01865 819992E: [info@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk](mailto:info@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk)  
[www.littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk](http://www.littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk)  
 follow us on Facebook: littleangelsmarcham

**MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL**

Spring is in the air! The children - and the frogs have been very busy... frogspawn has been laid in our Wild Patch and the children are getting some hands-on experience of lifecycles and metamorphosis. We are also delighted to announce that we recently received a £1000 prize from **White Horse Lotteries** ([www.whitehorselottery.co.uk](http://www.whitehorselottery.co.uk)) to help with the development of our outdoor learning spaces.



Stories and books have been a highlight of our sessions this term ... with story telling in a range of languages thanks to some of our parents ... share-a-story sessions ... a visit from a librarian ... and a wonderful new resource which allows children (and staff) to access stories either in English or in a more familiar language.

Please do get in touch if you would like a prospectus or an application form. We accept children from age 2 however we recommend that you register your interest as soon as possible (it's never too early, so even if you have a newborn, let us know!). Call us on 01865 392101 or email [marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk) to arrange a visit or to receive an application form.



**MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS**



We celebrated **World Book Day** (Thursday 2nd March) for a whole week! The children relished opportunities to read, discuss and debate. They especially enjoyed doing so when they came into school in their pyjamas!

It was lovely welcoming parents into school to read with the children on multiple occasions. It brought much joy to all the classrooms. Reading really is the most liberating thing: it informs and entertains, it opens up new worlds and explains our own.

I've been read to too. I have been entertained all week by **Clara, Madalena, Zara and Naia** (year 3) who have been sharing poems they have written with me – so I thought I'd share some extracts with you:

**Spring has sprung**  
**Spring wakes up all the animals from their sweet slumbers...**  
**Mother Earth**  
**Lime-green locks dance in the wind,**  
**A sky-blue wreath sits on her head,**  
**Her golden dress flows like a river. ...**  
**In Autumn, she clothes herself in beautiful marigolds and honeys...**  
**She ties up her lime-green locks with the last roses.**

What wonderful imagery and figurative language!

To see what else the school has been up to go to [www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk/class-pages/](http://www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk/class-pages/)

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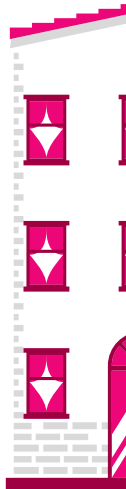
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Thirsty Cafe is delighted to welcome and introduce our two new part time cafe Managers **Caitlan Stead** and **Nikki Sawhney**. They officially started in March and have been working different shifts. Between them they will be responsible for the day to day management of the Cafe.



The first **Thirsty Cafe Community Lunch** with Little Angels went very well, everyone enjoying the company and good food. We fed 53 adults and 13 children. A big thank you to everyone who made it possible. We look forward to seeing everybody in the future. A roast dinner with pudding and hot drink costs £8 for adults and £4 for children. **Please let us know if you are interested in helping with future lunches.**

On Saturday 18th March we had a very successful busy cafe celebrating **Mothers Day** with spring flowers on the tables and wonderful live music played by **Gig Thomas** and **Becky Ramsurn** adding to the joyful atmosphere. Thank you volunteers who worked so hard in the kitchen and in front of house.



On **Wednesday 19th April** representatives from **AGE UK** will be at the cafe with a range of information and advice about scams and benefits. They will also be able to provide general advice or signpost on many other topics such as getting care or help at home. It will be useful for all ages including anyone who may have questions or concerns about their older relatives or friends.

**Thirsty Cafe is closed on Saturday 8th April for Easter**

**Dates for Diary**

- Sunday May 7th Coronation BBQ at Marcham Centre, bring a picnic and enjoy the BBQ and live music.
- Sunday May 13th Marcham Weekend.
- August Cafe closing for the summer.
- September 24th Millets 5K

**Café open Wednesday and Saturday, 9 – 11:30 am**

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

**E-mail:** [hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk](mailto:hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk)

**Help it, assist it, enhance it.**



Sunshine, blue skies, wind in the trees, bees amongst the flowers, frogs in the pond. All as much part of a garden, as are the close mown lawns, the well-tended roses, the daily watered planters and the veg plots we readily recognize.

Yet, consider how much more variety would be in your garden and local green spaces, if you started to introduce more of the habitats the wildlife that's already inhabiting that space, really desires.

There'd certainly be more variety of plants and colours, very likely during periods where you feel colour is lacking. Habitats go beyond your flower borders though, as they include deadwood, grasses of differing lengths, and water.

I always say, building from the insects and the plants up, will mean the larger things in these local food webs will follow.

Maybe though, you don't know what wildlife inhabits your local area, so have no clear pathway to knowing what new habitats you could put in. Well, that's a simple one - every county has an Environmental Records Centre, so contact them, send them your postcode, and ask for data about any living thing that's been recorded as being present within 1/2 a mile, 1 mile or 5 miles of your garden, and they'll send you that information, FREE! You'll know then where to start, what species there are, and after some further research, you'll learn what habitats they like, what you can do to help them.

**For the Thames Valley: [www.tverc.org](http://www.tverc.org)**

If this year you want to garden a different way, having spent years doing the same things, making the same mistakes, experiencing the same disappointments, then maybe this is a way to change things up and trying to do things differently, and a chance to start enjoying the garden through a new lens. The lens of the wildlife perspective. Maybe this year you can begin to see the world through the eyes of the wildlife that's out there already sharing the space with you. Wildlife is struggling yes, but there's always more we can do to help it, assist it, enhance it.

*Happy Gardening!*

**Stuart Mabbutt**

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**See page 17 for a live event with Stuart and William at the ex-vineyard in Frilford.**

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**MARCHAM CENTRE PLAYING FIELDS**

We manage the playing fields for football in the winter months and cricket in the summer months, as well as an open green space to be enjoyed by everyone, including young children. Please remember to treat this shared area with care and respect.

Just a reminder that while dogs are welcome on the field, owners should ensure that they are kept under control and all dog poo must be removed immediately. Dogs are allowed inside the halls, but must be kept on a lead at all times. No dogs are allowed inside the children’s play area at any time. Please see also this link for information about responsible dog ownership: <https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/faqs/advice/dog-fouling-and-law>

**COMING EVENTS AT MARCHAM CENTRE**


- Saturday 8th April:** Family Easter Egg Hunt 12-2pm
- Friday 21st April: Family Bingo:** Eyes Down at 7.30pm
- Sunday 7th May:** Coronation Community Day: Open air church service for all at 10:30; 12:00-16:00: Community lunch (please bring your own picnic) with Thirsty Café Barbecue, band and bar and patio open. Come and join this celebration for an important day in our country’s history and a celebration of our local volunteer activities.

**Friday 12th / Saturday 13th May:** Big Marcham Weekend  
**Indoor short-mat bowls** in the Large Hall on Wednesday afternoons 2pm–5pm – contact Colin Trinder (391718) or just turn up. Beginners and experienced players are equally welcome.

**Table Tennis** - the table tennis table is available to hire, for periods of an hour or more. This can be made by booking a slot in the meeting room via the [www.marchamcentre.org](http://www.marchamcentre.org) website. Please note: this room is used for other purposes, so you will need to book and pay the ‘local user’ fee of £8 per hour. Please remember to bring your own bats and balls.

If you wish to book a room at Marcham Centre, please use the booking request system on [www.marchamcentre.org](http://www.marchamcentre.org) or contact our Coordinator by email [coordinator@marchamcentre.org](mailto:coordinator@marchamcentre.org) or by phone **01865 507211**.

Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, Marcham OX13 6TY  
[enquiries@marchamcentre.org](mailto:enquiries@marchamcentre.org) [www.marchamcentre.org](http://www.marchamcentre.org)  
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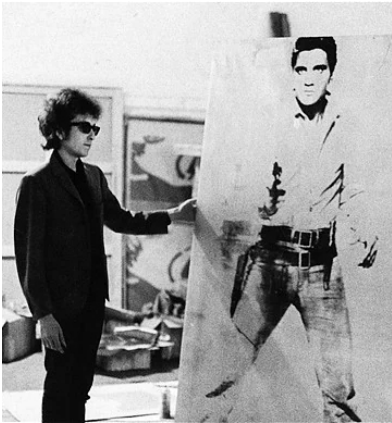



The Arts Society Abingdon LECTURE

**Wednesday 19th April,**  
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**POP GOES THE ARTIST: From Warhol to Dylan**  
**Suzanne Fagence Cooper**

In the sweltering heat of a New York summer, Andy Warhol invited Bob Dylan to his Factory to sit for a screen test. It was 1965. During the sitting for his portrait, Dylan became intrigued by Warhol’s monumental silver screen print of Elvis dressed as a cowboy. He took it home as a souvenir, strapped to the top of a station-wagon. It is now one of the highlights of the collection in MOMA, New York. This lecture examines the world of Pop Art, through the eyes of these two controversial artists.



Visitors are very welcome to attend this lecture, cost £6.00. A link to Zoom will be sent to every member 24 hours before the scheduled talk for those members unable to attend in person. Please email [info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk](mailto:info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk) for further information on the venue, any latest changes and updates. Lectures last 1 hour but allow extra time for announcements etc.

**For more information on future lectures and other activities see** [www.theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk](http://www.theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk) or email [info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk](mailto:info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk)

**Oxfordshire Artweeks** is the UK’s oldest and biggest artist open studios & pop-up exhibition event. The next festival takes place from 6th-29th May 2023  
[www.artweeks.org](http://www.artweeks.org)



## FOOD AND DRINK



Join us on the first Tuesday of each month between noon and 1.30pm for a delicious **lunch** in a friendly atmosphere at **Long Furlong Community Centre, Abingdon**.

Our facilities are easily accessible with onsite parking.

We serve exciting vegetarian and vegan recipes using unusual pulses, beans, grains and interesting spices. We hope to convince meat-eaters that a vegetarian meal can be a delicious and exciting taste experience that will not disappoint!

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

## HOLIDAYS

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**Local Podcast Goes Live in Oxfordshire**

**Saturday 27 May 3.30pm**

**Bothy Vineyard, Frilford Heath OX13 6QW**

A popular podcast, People’s Countryside Environmental Debate Podcast, which attracts thousands of listeners worldwide, is going fully live for the first time in Oxfordshire this May with colourful guest panellist Tommy Serafinski, an outdoorsman and public speaker with a passion for exploring human-wildlife relations.

After almost five years of bringing the big issues of nature, philosophy, climate, the human condition and social justice to the everyday person in the street with their easy and approachable style, Oxford boys William Mankelow and Stuart Mabbutt have decided to go live. Their new show “Environmental Debate Live and Unscripted”, which is the podcast format expanded for a live audience, will take place in the grounds of the former Bothy Vineyard in Frilford Heath near Abingdon. The event will be held on Saturday 27 May, from 3.30 pm onwards.

The event is in aid of wildlife charity Wild Oxfordshire, with 50% of the profits donated directly to them.

A leisurely guided walk around the old vineyard before the debate, with its wildflower meadows and new pond will be an additional attraction. An optional dinner over which the audience can continue their journey of exploration can also be bought with the tickets. This is entirely an outdoor event, and we regret that there is only partial disabled access.

Tickets and more information are on sale at <http://bitly.ws/zBbc>



**Don't forget about The Little Library**

The Little Library outside the Little Angels Nursery is available for everyone in the village to use. Please feel free to come and have a look at a range of books from adult novels, teenager and older children to under 5s. If you would like to donate books please bring them over and pop them into the library and take a new one away to enjoy, it is a great way to share the wonderful world of books in our village community. *Happy reading.*

**Become a Healthwatch  
Oxfordshire trustee  
– and help us make local  
health and care better**



- Do you care about the way health and social care services are run in Oxfordshire?
- Would you like to play a part in making these services better for all?

If so, Healthwatch Oxfordshire needs you to become a trustee! Healthwatch Oxfordshire is the county’s independent health and social care watchdog. We listen to people’s experiences of local services and share what we hear with commissioners and providers to help bring about improvements.

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The role will only require around 20 hours of your time a year. We welcome applications from people of all ages and backgrounds, and no previous experience of being a trustee is necessary – your lived experience and skills are what we need! A full induction will be given, and you will be well supported by our existing trustees and staff.

One of our current trustees said the role was rewarding and satisfying, adding: “Using skills and experience you already have, and learning new things, you get back much more than you put in.”

*This is a voluntary role though expenses will be paid.*

To find out more, including how to apply, see [www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk/news/becomeatruster](http://www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk/news/becomeatruster)

You can also contact us for more information on 01865 520520 or at [hello@healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk](mailto:hello@healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk)

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT  
ACTION PLAN FOR MARCHAM'S AQMA (AIR  
QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA)**

On Thursday 16th March, I attended a meeting with officers responsible for overseeing the management of the Marcham AQMA (Packhorse Lane), one of 3 in the Vale. To help to devise a new Action Plan for all three areas, Adkins was employed to collect in data and to come up with some measures within a strict legislative framework. Each measure had to be clearly allotted to those responsible in the district and county councils. And now the work is with the SMT before being put out to public consultation for 6 weeks in May.



This is where you can have your say on what you think of the Action Plan before it is put in a final plan ready to license for approval.

As the work is not public yet, I can say little about it in this article, other than to say that there were no surprises in the solutions they put forward. To remind you of the previous action plan, there were 3 possible actions put forward.

- 1) To build a by-pass.
- 2) To make the AQMA a low carbon zone by only allowing vehicles with low level of pollution ,eg electric ones, to pass through.
- 3) To look at how to restrict HGVs

None of these measures have been actioned, for reasons of cost mainly, so it will be interesting to see if the new action plan proves to be any better.

The good news is that the air pollution levels (Nox gases) in the AQMA have dropped to below the permitted level, although this will be monitored for several years yet before the AQMA label is removed. Also, after a year of measuring the particulates in the AQMA, the average readings again are below the permitted levels. But what is not improving is the traffic volume passing through the AQMA and this is likely to increase even more with the new housing developments in the area.

**SOME VALE NEWS**

- 1) Waste contract: The Vale's waste contract is one of the most expensive agreements that the Vale has to set up, and the present joint one, which was particularly good for the Vale and SODC, comes to an end in 2024. As we do not know all the detail of the requirements the government want to implement in their Environment Bill, we are delaying the start of a new Waste agreement by 2 years until the end of 2026. The good news is that although this is a difficult discussion and is confidential, I can say that talks about the interim contract are progressing well.

*On the subject of Waste, you can now download the Waste and Recycling Collection Calendar from the Vale website. Alternatively, if you receive your tax bill by post, it will be in the envelope.*

- 2) Neighbourhood disputes: a free mediation service is available to help disputing parties. If you know of anyone who might benefit from this service, please direct them to the following: [whitehorsedc.gov.uk/mediation](https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/mediation) or 01494 520821 (Mediation Bucks)
- 3) There is an online course for free training for food businesses to help improve their low hygiene ratings. Usually this would cost £35 per person. Information can be found on: [env.health@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:env.health@southandvale.gov.uk)
- 4) Let it Bee: Last year the Vale supported the **No Mow May** campaign to encourage increasing biodiversity. This year it is the **Let It Bee** campaign which aims to increase biodiversity by setting aside 9 sites belonging to the Vale to allow existing plants to thrive, which in turn will increase wildlife in those areas, including insects and birdlife. Locations have been chosen which don't impact on pedestrians or sightlines for drivers and are also in areas with shorter grass for walkers and those that want

to exercise. If you want to find out more, please go to the Grass cutting and Let It Bee page on the Vale website: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/> or contact them by phone or post: 01235 422 422 (Text phone users add 18001 before dialling) Vale of White Horse District Council, Abbey House Abbey Close Abingdon OX14 3JE

Thank you for reading this and please contact me if you need any help or have questions that you think I might be able to answer.

**CATHERINE WEBBER** Cllr VWHDC

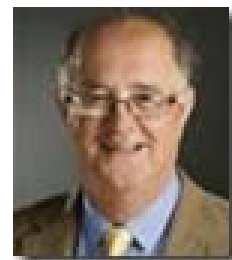
District Councillor for Marcham Ward

Phone: 07357 464699/ 01235 534001 or [webbercatherine1@gmail.com](mailto:webbercatherine1@gmail.com)

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT  
ELECTIONS**

This month's contribution is as non-party political as I can make it. It confines itself to the elections process.

Spare a thought for the Councils, Council officers and residents who have some elections every year. West Oxfordshire elects one quarter of their councillors every year. In Cherwell, it is one third. Thankfully in SODC and VWHDC, it is an election every 4 years. County Elections, every 4 years, happen in between. It's a complicated system and can often seem to be an irritant to busy, working people. Add national elections which can happen anytime and it is not much wonder that many residents, already confused about what different councils actually do, are further confused over which elections are about to happen and who is standing for what. It does make one wonder if those countries that have all elections on the same day in a fixed cycle might have it right. In these countries, the fixed day is often made a public holiday with the result that turnout is higher. Democracy is said to come at a cost, but the system of a fixed day for all elections is certainly more cost effective and raises the status of elections in most people's minds.



**ELECTION 'PURDAH'**

For six weeks leading up to Election Day, there is a period of purdah. In this period, Councils are run by officers rather than elected politicians. This ensures that only non party political decisions and announcements can be made during purdah. Political leafleting can still go ahead (and does) in which each party makes its offer to the electorate and tries to explain why its opponents are wrong. There are rules about what can and cannot be said in leaflets and political organisers are adept at getting around them. However, the local District Office has powers to take action against those parties that transgress.

**SO PLEASE VOTE**

If democracy is going to flourish, it is vitally important that people vote. If you feel that all politicians are born of satan, try ordering them in the order in which you hate them and vote for the one(s) at the bottom of your list. If the country is to be governed by those who most people want to govern them, please vote so there is some hope for the process.

**Gentle reminder on new rules for voting at a polling station.**

Remember to bring your photo ID with you as you will need to show this to the polling station staff before you vote. You do not need to bring your poll card with you to cast your ballot, however it may speed things up if you do.

There is no dress code when visiting the polling station and it is OK to wear garments that might obscure your face: for instance, hoodies or the niqab, but please bear in mind that you will need to remove any face coverings so that staff can verify your identity as part of the requirements for Voter ID, however.

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

Phone 0754 657 1521 or email [Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com](mailto:Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com)

**MP'S REPORT**

Whether you live in Wantage, Didcot, Wallingford, Faringdon or any of the 64 villages I represent, my constituency-wide **survey on local health services** is currently open. It's just 8 questions long and should only take about 5 minutes – no more than 10 – and you can complete it until 17th April on my website: <https://www.david-johnston.org.uk/health>.



Increasing our health services relative to the population growth we've had is one of the things I have campaigned on most since being elected 3 years ago – particularly the need for more GP surgeries. I've spoken about this in 19 debates in parliament and had numerous meetings with the local councils, local health leaders, ministers and local people about it. The more people who complete it, the stronger the message we can send.

I held a successful inaugural meeting of my Science and Technology Forum for the companies we have at Harwell, Milton Park and elsewhere which George Freeman, the Minister at the new Science Department, spoke at. He and I are very keen to promote what is going on here more as it is of both national and international significance – and we discussed some good ideas to do so. Watch this space!

I'll be holding an Apprenticeship Fair for local young people and employers across the constituency at Didcot Civic Hall on 24th April. I visit at least 1 school and at least 1 employer almost every week (and have been to 600-odd organisations overall since being elected) and I hear regularly that young people don't know the apprenticeships open to them and that employers struggle to recruit enough apprentices. I'm hopeful this fair will help.

My campaigning on behalf of the local AEAT Pensioners has been bearing fruit: the National Audit Office has published its report on the case following my request and Parliament's Public Accounts Committee recently held a hearing on it, with their own report to come.

A few highlights from many visits in the last month. It was good to be interviewed on Wallingford Radio which has been going great guns since it got its FM licence. You can listen live on 107.3FM. I had a great visit to the new wedding dress shop in Wantage, About You Bridal, set up by Sharon to make the process of buying dresses, shoes and accessories as stress-free as possible. It's also home to Gallery Cakes, set up by Nicki, so that you can order your wedding cake too!

It was very good to see The Place in the Corn Exchange in Faringdon, having seen the space when it was just an idea, which supports parents and their children under 5. I also met Keith and Sue to talk about the Faringdon Day Centre and will be back to visit that soon. And I'm pleased to say Michael Gove was very impressed with the Greencore Construction houses I took him to see in Southmoor.

As ever, if I can help with anything then do please get in touch via [david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk)

**DAVID JOHNSTON** OBE MP, Member of Parliament for Wantage, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA 0207 219 3858 Email: [david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk)



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

**GARD's Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 2nd May at 7.30pm in the Millenium Room, Steventon Village Hall.**

Thank you to everyone who made a response to the Water Resources South East (WRSE) consultation and to Thames Water's draft Water Resource management Plan (dWRMP). We have been copied into at least 150 WRSE responses, with many more known to have been sent, an encouraging number. At time of going to press, the Thames Water responses are still being written, and many have been copied to GARD.

**Where are we now with the proposals and responses?**

This stage of the Reservoir proposal features a 'triple bill'. As well as the closed Water Resources South-East and Thames Water dWRMP consultations (the latter closed 20th March), there is the RAPID Gate 2 process on the individual Strategic Sources. RAPID (Regulator Alliance for the Progressing of Infrastructure Development) will produce a draft decision on the Strategic Sources (eg Abingdon Reservoir and Severn Thames Transfer) on 30th March. Stakeholders (ie GARD, OCC, the Vale, Parish Councils) then have until 11th June to make representations. GARD will be making representations to RAPID, and we'll keep you informed.

The response of the Councils and of MPs has been very encouraging. **Layla Moran**, MP for Oxford West and Abingdon, said in her WRSE response: "Relying on large, expensive and time-consuming infrastructure projects has created a regional plan that is not adaptable to changing future conditions. True drought resilience must include more urgently tackling leakage and improving water efficiency." Later she also says: 'I do not believe that consumers should be bearing the cost of constructing new water resources, when water companies are failing to fix their own existing infrastructure, resulting in significant waste of water.'

**Councillor Pete Sudbury, Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment** and spokesperson for the Reservoir issue said:

"We have consistently opposed this reservoir proposal, which we believe could turn out to be a damaging white elephant that will not be resilient to the kind of multi-year droughts we are seeing in many parts of the world. The South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO) will have significant and potentially unacceptable environmental effects.

The WRSE regional plan should bring forward the Severn Thames Transfer (STT) earlier than indicated in this draft plan. ... Given the concerns, the SESRO should be removed from the WRSE regional plan and the company plans, and not pursued as a strategic resource option."

The **Vale of White Horse District Council** said, in a media release on 6th March, that water companies should forget the reservoir and focus on fixing leaks. They added that SESRO should be removed from the plan and is urging water companies and regulators to instead carry out further research into other water resources and to focus efforts on fixing leaks and improving water efficiency.

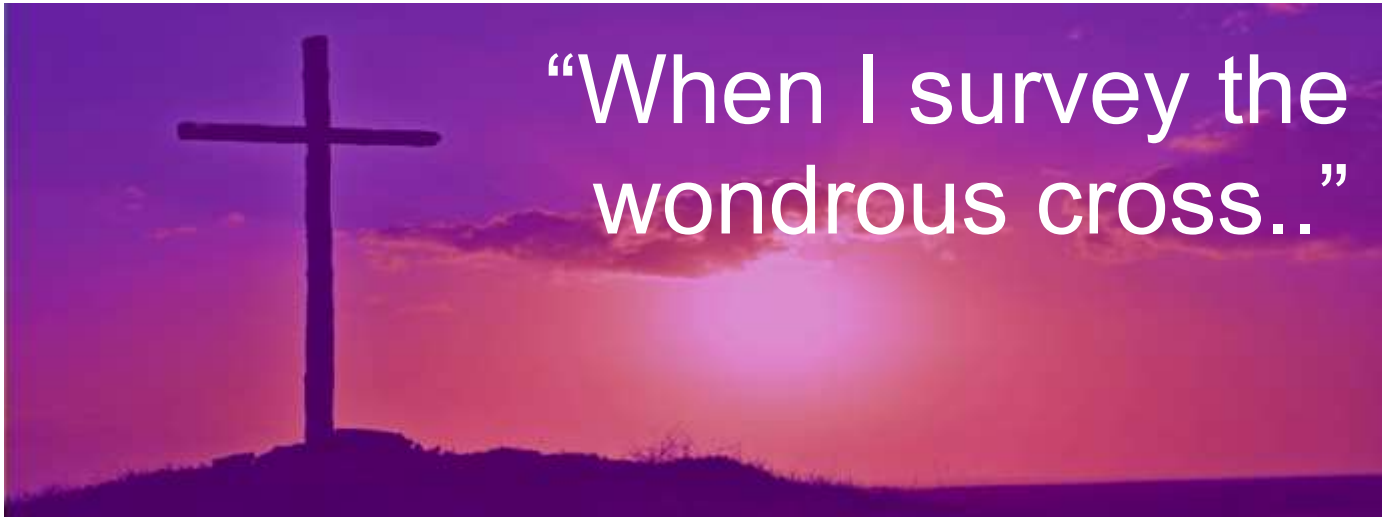
**Cllr Bethia Thomas, Leader of Vale of White Horse District Council**,

said: "Building a reservoir would cause permanent and irreversible harm to an enormous area of the Vale countryside and potentially result in a significant increase in carbon emissions. We should be doing all we can to tackle the climate emergency and much more attention must be placed on the climate impact of this proposal."

*We look forward to seeing you at the GARD AGM on Tuesday 2nd May in the Millennium Room. For more information [www.gard-oxon.org.uk](http://www.gard-oxon.org.uk), Facebook: @abingdonreservoir, Twitter @GARD\_OXON*

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The cross of Jesus remains reassuring enough to be held in the hand of the dying, yet dangerous enough to be banned from display in many countries. It is famous enough to be recognized by billions as Christianity's primary symbol, yet intimate enough to captivate the heart and sustain the soul for a lifetime. It is simple enough to be understood by a Reception class visit to church, yet profound enough to fill volumes of theological text books and hang above the doors of Oxford Colleges. So what is this cross of Christ all about? Why did Jesus have to die on one? Doubtless, the famous Isaac Watts hymn will be sung again in our churches this Easter, and the hymn helps us with an answer to those questions. The cross is about the love of God. "Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all." The cross means many things. It is about Jesus providing victory over death, and a great example of loving self-sacrifice for human beings to follow. But for me the heart of it is a great exchange. Jesus dies in my place so that I can go free. Out of love, he carries my wrongdoing and instead gives me his goodness and eternal life. We may not think that our sin requires Jesus to die. Our deep, cultural belief today is that human beings are by nature good, and that bad things only happen as a consequence of faulty education or past trauma. This makes the idea of Jesus dying for us seem alien, unnecessary, cruel even. But Jesus takes a different view. He claims that evil comes out of our hearts, and that it has consequences. The cross is where those consequences are dealt with. Jesus died as Saviour for the world. Nowhere else does such love and sorrow met, as the hymn goes. In this season of Easter hope, spring flowers and chocolate, take a moment to "survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died." Details of all Easter services and events at St Luke's and All Saints are in this issue. Revd Nick Weldon

## Easter Services and events

1-6 April in All Saints'

Experience Easter— for prayer and reflection

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April,

7.30pm: Maundy Thursday communion

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April

10am-12pm: Good Friday Family  
*reflective event at All Saints*

2-3pm: Good Friday Meditation at St. Luke's

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April

10am-12pm: Easter family Activity at St. Luke's

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April

6am: Easter Day Sunrise Service at St. Luke's

10am: Family Communion at All Saints

6pm: Holy Communion at All Saints

### Regular services

10am: Morning

Service at All Saints'

11am-12pm: Open

church at St. Luke's

6pm: Evening

Service

**Wednesday Holy**

**Communion**

10.30am at Duffield

Place



### Contacts:

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07888331708, [rob@marchamyouth.org](mailto:rob@marchamyouth.org) **Jill Rowe** Children and Families minister

[families@allsaintsmarcham.org](mailto:families@allsaintsmarcham.org) **Tamsin Gilbert** Parish Administrator [info@allsaintsmarcham.org](mailto:info@allsaintsmarcham.org)