

# Marcham & District News

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

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



February 2015 Vol: 37 No: 2

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ Wildflower Seeds to make our village even more beautiful see page 11



▲ Little Angels and the porridge see page 15

WOMEN'S WORLD  
DAY OF PRAYER  
FRIDAY 6 MARCH  
SEE PAGE 7




▼ Marcham Pre-School tending their plants see page 15

▼ Marcham Baby and Toddler Group see page 15



February		
3 Tues	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20	
6 Fri	MP's surgery, Wantage, 17.30 – 19.00	13
7 Sat	Jazz in the Vale, St Deny's, Stanford, 19.30	17
9 Fri	Have Your Say Marcham Village Shop, 17.00 – 18.00	3
10 Tue	Singing is Good for You, 14.00 – 15.30	7
10 Tue	Marcham Society: Sex, Drink & Death in 17thC Oxon, Tim Healey, All Saints' Church, 19.45	11
11 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3
12 Thur	Midweek Walk, The Red Lion, Cholsey, 12.30 lunch / Moulsoford 13.30 walk	7
17 Tue	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20	

19 Thur	Marcham WI, Denman College, 19.30	7
20 Fri	<b>Deadline for March MADNews, 17.00</b>	
20 Fri	Marcham Players' AGM, Manor Farm, 19.30	7
24 Tue	Singing is Good for You, 14.00 – 15.30	7
27 Fri	MSSSC, Quiz Night, 20.15	7
28 Sat	ABRAIL, Model Railway Show, Tennis Centre, Abingdon, 10.00 – 17.00	9
28 Sat	Marcham Progressive Dinner, 19.00	9
28 Sat	St Davids' Concert, Oxford Town Hall, 19.00	17
March		
6 Fri	Womens' World Day of Prayer, Marcham Baptist Church, 10.30	7
29 Sun	Cream Teas and Historical Garford, Village Hall, 15.00 – 16.30	5

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

Dear Readers

Carpets of snowdrops are springing (!) up everywhere and the birds are getting ready for nesting. All the males getting into their finery and the females getting ready to judge them... "The Voice" in our gardens (except without Tom Jones – although if he wanted to come and sit in my garden I probably wouldn't say no)!

Best wishes go to Victoria North of Top Toes who opened her new clinic in Wootton at the end of January, and CONGRATULATIONS to Charlotte Cardosi of My Beauty Room who has won the 2015 Venus Awards Employee of the Year.

Until next time



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

**CRIMESTOPPERS**

Call 0800 555 111 (anonymous calls)

**NHS NON-EMERGENCY**

Call Free from any phone - 111  
**COUNTY COUNCILLOR**  
Richard Webber, Orchard Barn, Sutton  
Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ

Tel: 01235 534001  
[richard.webber@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:richard.webber@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

Marcham and Shippon  
Catherine Webber, Orchard Barn, Sutton  
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Tel: 01235 534001  
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For other councillors go to

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

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February 2015

**MARCHAMPARISHCOUNCILNEWS**

**Council budget 2015/16**

The Parish Council has carefully considered its budget for 2015/2016 looking in detail at its income and expenditure. The Parish Council has resolved that it requires funding of £40,000 for the next financial year. The Vale of White Horse District Council will provide a grant to the parish of £1034, as part of the council tax reduction scheme, and the remaining parish council tax element will be £38966. Statutory power exists for the Parish Councils to pay basic allowances to their members. The members of Marcham Parish Council however decided some while ago to continue working voluntarily for the parish and not to claim allowances, thus helping to cap the parish element of the council tax.

**Community Facilities in Marcham**

The Parish Council has recently received a response from the Anson Trust regarding the Council's offer. The Council is considering the response and will reply in due course.

**Parishioner of the Year Award**

There has been a very limited response to the Council's request for the Parishioner of the Year Award, and the Council has therefore decided not to present an award this year.

**Annual Meeting of Electors**

Advance notice is given that the annual meeting of electors will take place on Wednesday 20th May in the school hall at 7.30 p.m. This is just after the elections. The Council is considering possible guest speakers, and full details of the meeting will follow in due course. In the meantime please make a note of the date in your diaries.

**Best Kept Garden Competition 2015**

The Council will again be running the Best Kept Garden Competition in 2015. No entry forms will be required and judges will assess gardens from the roadside without the need for entering properties. Please bear the competition in mind when planning your gardens and planting your seeds.

**Elections May 2015**

It may seem a little early to consider elections in May, but the term of office for the current Councillors comes to an end in May. Elections for the Parish Council, should there be more candidates than seats, will be held at the same time as the General Election and District Council Election. Now is the time to begin to think about standing to serve the community.

The Parish Council has a wide, but limited, range of powers to provide and maintain a variety of important local services such as allotments, bus shelters, open spaces etc, and it acts as a consultee for many issues. It is a very busy time in a changing parish

with much going on.

Further information about the role of a Parish Councillor and the requirements of office can be obtained from the clerk.

**Planning Applications**

The following planning applications have been considered by the Council:

P14/V2763 Erection of double garage and single storey side extension at Sheepstead Folly, Sheepstead Road. The Council had no objections.

P14/V2363/RM Reserved matters application for outline consent P13/V2731/O for appearance landscaping, layout, and scale for 54 dwellings and associated works at Willow Farm, Abingdon Road. The Council agreed that the basic layout was acceptable but expressed concern regarding the lack of roadway joining with the adjacent development at The Priory, and the distribution of car parking. The Council also requested that local people be given priority when the letting of affordable housing was undertaken.

**Date of Next Council Meeting:**

Wednesday 11th February 2015 at 7.30 p.m. in the residents' lounge, at Duffield Place.

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

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

Have you got a problem or want to tell the police about something that is bothering you in an informal setting? Come along to our PCSO's Have Your Say meetings ...

**Have Your Say**

On all dates the times will be between 17:00 and 18:00

**Friday 9 February**

**at Marcham Village Shop**

09.03.15 at Duffield Place  
16.04.15 at Marcham Village Shop  
29.05.15 at Duffield Place  
26.06.15 Marcham Village Shop

**PCSO Andy McCormack C9461**  
**Abingdon Outer**

**Neighbourhood Team**

**NAG7 Marcham, Wootton,**

**Shippon and Boars Hill**

**Police Non-emergency**

**number: 101**

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

**Have Your Say Online**

You can now send non-emergency messages to the police using the online form on the Thames Valley Police website. For you to do that please follow the link: **Have Your Say - contact your local team.** Please allow some time for a reply as the mail box is only checked at certain times of the day.

Dear Editor

Last month there was a letter about saving Cothill Pitt - but I have heard that the Baptist Church, (the one on the bends) also needs saving. Marcham Baptist Church is in great danger of closing in the very near future due to the age and infirmity of its few remaining members.

Do we really want to lose another village amenity through lack of support?

Would YOU be prepared to attend the Sunday morning services (10.30am) and help keep it going?

You will receive a very warm welcome!!  
**NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED**

Dear Editor

In your December issue the Parish Council highlighted the fact that it had made an offer to the Trust to take over the running of the Anson Field, with ownership of the field itself being transferred to a charity run by the Parish Council. We have since written to the Parish Council asking it to provide some detail to support its offer and in particular to confirm that the Parish Council had considered the financial, legal and charitable implications of its offer and that it had:

- the funding necessary to complete the acquisition / lease of the field (if, indeed, that is its intention),
- the funding necessary to renovate or replace the existing facilities,
- considered the potential implications for the parish precept should it have to fund the continuing financial losses from running the facilities on the field in the meantime.

In our reply to the Parish Council we have also posed a number of other questions surrounding the provision of community facilities in the village and we look forward to the Parish Council's response in due course.

**THE ANSON TRUST**

**INTERNET SECURITY ADVICE THROUGH GET SAFE ONLINE**

Did you know that 80% of online crime is easily preventable by taking simple steps to protect computers, smart phones and tablets? During 2015, Thames Valley Police will be working in partnership with Get Safe Online to provide practical advice to help our communities protect themselves on the internet. The website covers a wide range of topics, and will be a useful read for parents, businesses and the vulnerable and elderly too. Visit [www.GetSafeOnline.org](http://www.GetSafeOnline.org)



Coming soon.....

In Garford, the return of our popular Sunday Cream Tea PLUS

“Historical Garford”

Discovering hundreds of years of this rural community.

If you have maps, photos or other historically interesting artifacts relating to Garford that you would like to share, please contact

Mike Greig - 391915

or if you are able to bake some scones or a cake contact

Deb Treadgold - 391182

Cream Tea and Historic Garford  
 Sunday 29th March  
 3.00pm to 4.30pm  
 Garford Village Hall

**HOUSING SURVEY**

Marcham Parish Council is aware of the fact that there are some older parishioners who live in the village and who would like to remain in the village but would wish move to smaller/more manageable property, if available.

Given the current planning regime, the Council would like to obtain some indication of the extent of such a demand. The intention would be that, if any further planning applications are approved in the parish, the Council could try to ensure that such demand could be made known to the planning authority (and the developer) with a view to ensuring that suitable housing were included in the development. This would include both private and affordable housing.

If you are a householder in the parish who is over 55 and would like to move to a smaller/more manageable property whilst remaining within Marcham, please complete the simple questionnaire below and return to:-

Clerk to Marcham Parish, Mrs Linda Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Road OX13 6PU.

**Only one response per household please.**

**CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES**

Name(s) and age(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Is current property owned or rented? \_\_\_\_\_

Property type e.g. detached/semi/terrace/maisonette/bungalow \_\_\_\_\_

Number of bedrooms \_\_\_\_\_

**DESIRED PROPERTY**

Private or rented? \_\_\_\_\_

Property type e.g. detached/semi/terrace/maisonette/bungalow \_\_\_\_\_

Number of bedrooms required \_\_\_\_\_

Any other requirements (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Please note all information provided will be treated in the strictest confidence and will be aggregated and anonymised before being passed to any third party.

Keep the Date



Summer Dance  
 Saturday 27th June

More details to follow

Thames Valley Police are currently advertising for Control Room and Police Enquiry Centre Operators.

If you are interested in attending an Open Event at Kidlington Enquiry Centre please send an email to [Natalie.o'brien@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Natalie.o'brien@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

Available roles and applications can be found by visiting our [website](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/joinus/joinus-police-enquiry-centre-officer.htm).

<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/joinus/joinus-police-enquiry-centre-officer.htm>

## Marcham WI

### Next Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, 19th February  
**Time:** 7.30pm  
**Venue:** Denman College



Now that spring is not too many weeks around the corner, come along to our February meeting to hear **Stuart Mabbutt** inspire us to get outside again with his talk "**How every garden can be a wildlife garden**".

*For any questions, new members or visitors, contact Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com*

## MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK.

**Thursday, February 12th.**

For this month's walk we will go to The Red Lion Inn in Wallingford Road, Cholsey (Map Ref SU589867) at 12.30pm for lunch. However we will start our walk of about 4½ miles from the Car Park (Map Ref SU491838) on the A329 next to the Telephone Kiosk in Moulsoford. We will be walking, mostly on sheltered estate roads, up into the downs towards Compton, with extensive views across the Thames Valley to the Chilterns.

Members free, non-members £1. We are always pleased to see new faces. Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and further details.



### Thank You

to everyone who bought a copy of

Jay's Just for Fun Quiz.

Sales raised £35 for the

Thames Valley Air Ambulance

Look out for the next one in the autumn

[www.tvcaa.org](http://www.tvcaa.org)



## SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!

2.00-3.30 pm Tuesday 10th February

2.00-3.30 pm Tuesday 24th February

We meet in the common room at Duffield Place. Come and join us, you will be sure of a warm welcome ... and tea and cake!

Phone 391270 for more details



Christine Whild

## MARCHAM PLAYERS

REMINDER! The Marcham Players will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Friday 20th February at 7.30 pm in the Board Room at Manor Farm.

The most important item on the agenda will be "**The Future of the Players**". If

you have an opinion, please come and share it – we need to hear what our members and friends think to enable us all to make an informed decision.

For more details about joining in with the Players, call Dave Hutchinson 01865 391964 or Joey McLean 01865 391242.

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



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

### Quiz Night

ALL WELCOME

FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY

This month's quiz will be held on Friday 27 February in the Sports and Social Club on the Anson Field, starting at 8.15pm. Questions are on a range of subjects and aimed at everyone's ability! The quiz nights run on the last Friday of each month. Teams of up to four people are invited, but if you are alone or a couple, come along, and we could fit you into an existing or even new team!

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

Further details from Trevor Hill – 01865 391321

*Everyone welcome - members AND non-members*

Just turn up on the night for a friendly evening of fun and banter.

*We look forward to seeing you at the club*

## GARD AGM

The GARD AGM will be held at Stocks Lane Farm Steventon on Tuesday 14th April 2015 at 7pm followed by a Committee Meeting. All who wish to be updated are welcome to attend,

**NICK THOMPSON** Hon Chairman GARD

## WOMEN'S WORLD

### DAY OF PRAYER

FRIDAY 6 MARCH

This year's service has been prepared by the women of The Bahamas and we will be celebrating it in the Baptist chapel at 10.30am. There will be a simple lunch in the Baptist Hall afterwards.

DO COME!



## WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLAY BRIDGE ??

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

We are a friendly, cheerful bunch who meet to play in a cautiously competitive spirit. There are not too many of us, usually we have 3 or 4 tables. Nobody takes the competition too seriously, but we do try to improve our game as we go along – and many of us need to! The standard is variable, from raw beginners to quite experienced players. If you are a beginner we are prepared to help you learn the game 'out of school'. We don't have set partnerships, but draw for partners at the beginning of the evening. We play duplicate bridge, but don't worry if you have not played duplicate before – none of us had when we started! It's all quite straightforward.

If you feel you would like a game, why not come along on Monday evening? Our venue is the comfortable, warm Board Room at Manor Farm in Marcham, starting at 7:30pm, finishing around 10:30. You don't need to bring a partner and parking is not a problem. There is an annual subscription of £5 plus £1 per evening, which includes coffee. If you would like more information ring Joe Featherstone on 391425 or Rob Hall on 301626.



Bank Balance  
£17,764

Local Events  
£11,328

Donations  
£7,094

2014 - 2015 Membership  
Voting: 72 Junior: 18

5p Coins  
5648



Community facilities update

## Community facilities – progress update

### Community Facilities Steering Group

The Community Facilities Steering Group (CFSG), drawn from the Parish Council, the Parochial Church Council, the Baptist Church, Marcham School Governors, Marcham Scouts, Sports and Social Club, and Marcham Community Group is continuing to work on details of options and outline plans for new community facilities.

CFSG is working on outline plans for a community building and minimum requirements for the land required. It is also refining the selection criteria to enable us all to work out which location for new facilities is best placed to meet community needs. There is much still to do, and we remain keen to hear of anyone else who has skills to offer and who is able to help.

In the meantime, MCG is continuing to plan future community events that we can all enjoy, as well as to keep our hands in on what is likely to be essential fund-raising. Please remember also to keep collecting and letting us have those little 5ps—it all helps!

Marcham Community Group:  
391727 (Jim)

Company No 7470307  
admin@marcham.org

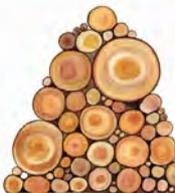
Charity No 1144407

[www.marcham.org](http://www.marcham.org)



### LOGS FOR LABOUR:

Would you like free firewood, or do you have a woodland that needs managing? The Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment's "Logs for Labour" programme aims to promote sustainable use of woodfuel by running events where volunteers help to manage woodlands in return for logs. The events are 2-3 hours long and could involve coppicing hazel, thinning trees, or piling up brush. Bring sturdy gloves, shoes and a saw (hand tools only allowed)... or let us know if your woodland needs the help of volunteers. Information about events is at [www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk](http://www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk), or 'like' us at [www.facebook.com/oxonwood](https://www.facebook.com/oxonwood). Riki Therivel, 01865 243488.



**Marcham Progressive Dinner**  
Raising Awareness for Agape, Balsam, Vila Maninga and Send A Cow.

You are cordially invited to attend  
**Marcham's Progressive Dinner**  
**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at 7pm**  
An evening of good food and great company!  
If you would like to host or prepare a course,  
or just register an interest,  
please contact Shae on 07969 236721.

**Marie Curie's** largest fundraising campaign returns this March. We'll be donning hats, collecting coins and handing out daffodil pins across the UK throughout the month. We need more collectors than ever to hit the streets for us this year, so please sign up today and help us make 2015 our best year yet. [www.mariecurie.org.uk](http://www.mariecurie.org.uk)

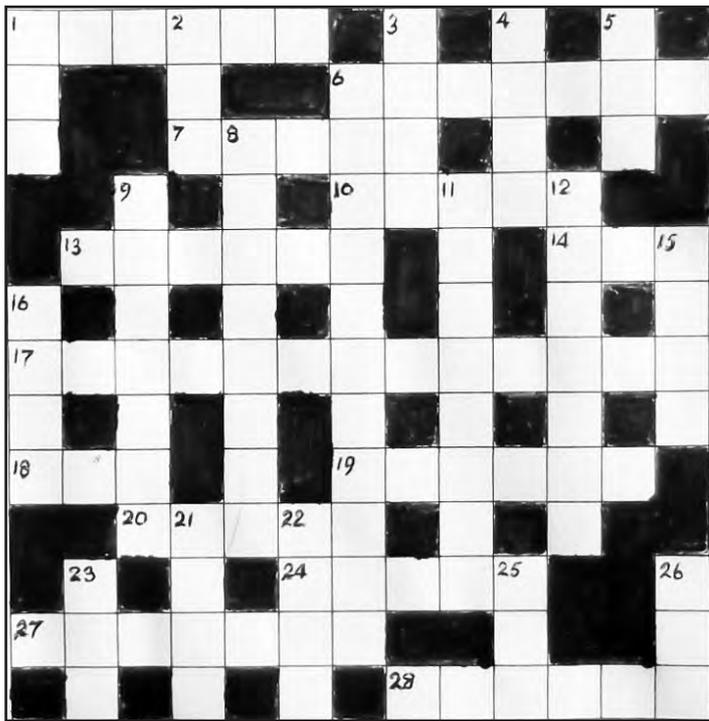


### Lost Property

Have you lost anything around Marcham? A beret, some gloves, a key perhaps, what about some sunglasses or jewellery, a woolly hat with pompoms and pink mittens...or a transformer? All these are just waiting to be re-united with their owners! Come down to the shop and claim your lost items!

ABRAIL 2015  
Model Railway Show  
**for modellers of all ages**  
Saturday 28th February 2015  
10.00am – 5.00pm  
**WHITE HORSE LEISURE & TENNIS CENTRE**  
**ABINGDON on THAMES OX14 3PJ**  
**LARGEST EXHIBITION IN OXFORDSHIRE**  
Over 50 Exhibitors of Layouts and Traders  
**Marketplace for Your Modelling Needs**  
**Demonstrations Railway Societies**  
Entrance £8.00 Adult / Children Free  
Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times  
[www.admrc.org.uk](http://www.admrc.org.uk)

CROSSWORD BY ALISA



ACROSS

- 1. Place northwest of Marcham (6)
- 6. Fowl (7)
- 7. Trumpet sound (5)
- 10. Inspire (5)
- 13. Type of Scandinavian skiing (6)
- 14. Sign of assent (3)
- 17. Saturday meal (4.9)
- 18. Drink (3)
- 19. Alter (6)
- 20. Sing on a Mountain (5)
- 24. Rosy cheeked (5)
- 27. Stalks eaten like fruit (7)
- 28. Hill near Botley (6)

DOWN

- 1. Bird (3)
- 2. Horse (3)
- 3. Son of Noah (4)
- 4. Pale beige (4)
- 5. Tree (3)
- 6. Marcham Association (7.4)
- 8. Beetle (8)
- 9. Midday (7)
- 11. On the way to Faringdon (8)
- 12. Make bigger (7)
- 15. Fruit (4)
- 16. Leave out (4)
- 21. Globes (4)
- 22. Makes a mistake (4)
- 23. Question (3)
- 25. Sweet potato (3)
- 26. Tree (3)

MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

It is intended to give information regarding Fixtures and Nets in next month's MADNews. Please contact Trevor Hill (01865 391321) for any information relating to the Club - including playing or umpiring for Marcham. And finally... It has been reported that on attending a Cricket Match for the first time a visitor to this country observed the Field and, noticing the Umpires in their coats, asked "what are the Butchers for?"..



CSB

Run by the community for the community

**Marcham Village Shop and Post Office**  
A Special Service for those in difficulty



Not feeling well • Parents with sick children • Worried about slippery pavements • Feeling frail?

During bad weather the shop will provide a free delivery service to residents who cannot go shopping.



- Make a list of the goods you want.
- Phone the shop on 391993 with the items you require. Leave your address and contact number.
- The shop will then pick your order and deliver the goods. (We will do its best to fulfil your order as accurately as possible or will substitute a suitable alternative.)
- You pay cash on delivery

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

FREE SEED KITS

Grow Wild has thousands of free seed kits for groups to share, so people can transform local spaces into beautiful, inspiring and colourful wild flower havens



Group leaders can join one of the UK's biggest-ever seed sowing campaigns and help to create over one million square metres of wild flowers in spring 2015.

Register today to receive wild flower seeds native to your country for you to share with people in your formal and informal group/s, including activity clubs, societies, work places, schools and neighbourhoods.

There are 120,000 free kits up for grabs and all you need to do to register on behalf of your group/s is fill in Grow Wild's simple two-minute form at [www.growwilduk.com/register-seed-kit](http://www.growwilduk.com/register-seed-kit)

**Registration closes at midnight on 14 February 2015 and the kits will be sent out in late March, just in time for spring sowing**



**VILLAGE CAFE**  
**EVERY WEDNESDAY**  
**MSSSC**



Do you like a roast dinner followed by home-made pudding? If so **Marcham Village Café** is the place for you. Join us at the Scouts, Sports and Social Club building on the Anson Field at about 12 o'clock? Bring a friend if you don't want to come alone. If you need a lift please ring Sheila Dunford on 391439 or Jenny Allan on 391373.

**It's not just for the elderly, all are welcome and we have a group of children from the nursery next door**  
*We don't make a charge for the meal but rely on contributions.*



*The*  
**Marcham**  
*Society*

*All Saints' Church Marcham*  
**7.45pm Tuesday 10th February**

**Tim Healey**  
**Sex, Drink & Death in**  
**17th Century Oxfordshire**

*March meeting: Jonathan Flint - Oxford Instruments*

Non-members always welcome £2 [www.marchamsociety.org.uk](http://www.marchamsociety.org.uk)

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

**ED VAIZEY WRITES...**

As you are all probably no doubt aware, by now, 2015 is the year of a General Election. In my constituency this is being held alongside elections for both South Oxfordshire and The Vale of White Horse District Councils and elections for many towns and parishes.



The way people register to vote is changing and it is very important that as many of you as possible have the chance to have your say at the ballot box. Individual Electoral registration (IER) is being implemented which requires each person to register to vote individually rather than by household. Residents who have automatically been re-registered on the electoral roll will have received a confirmation letter from the returning officer, and will not have to do anything more.

To try and increase the number of people registered to vote council staff will be visiting the homes of those who are not registered, or who have not sent back forms asking who lives at the property. These canvassers will always carry identification badges, so please ask to see them, and there is no need for them to enter your homes. You can register securely online by visiting [www.gov.uk/yourvotematters](http://www.gov.uk/yourvotematters) or by contacting the shared elections office on 01235 540310.

Thursday May 7th (the date of the election) falls in a week with the May Day bank holiday on the Monday, so if you are planning to take this opportunity to go on holiday, please register for a postal vote as soon as possible.

As so many elections are taking place at the same time, counting the votes is being spread over several days. The General Election votes will be counted after polling stations at 10pm on the night of 7th. District Council counts will take place on the afternoon of 8th and town and parish council counts on 9th. If you are interested in getting involved in any of these counts please contact [elections@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:elections@southandvale.gov.uk) or telephone the phone number above.

As ever please feel free to contact me on any matter at the House of Commons, SW1A 0AA, 020 7219 6350 or [vaizeye@parliament.uk](mailto:vaizeye@parliament.uk). Email is the quickest and most reliable way to get in touch, as I keep a very close eye on my emails and can reply very quickly. I also send out occasional general interest emails about developments in the Wantage and Didcot Constituency. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please do email me at [vaizeye@parliament.uk](mailto:vaizeye@parliament.uk) or sign up at [www.vaizey.com](http://www.vaizey.com). Surgery details can be found at [www.vaizey.com](http://www.vaizey.com).

**ED VAIZEY**, MP Wantage and Didcot (Con)

<b>MP'S SURGERY</b>	
5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise - no appointment necessary	
6 Feb	<b>Wantage</b> Vale and Downland Museum, OX12 8BL
<b>Contact Ed Vaizey MP by</b>	
Post	The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
E-mail	<a href="mailto:vaizeye@parliament.uk">vaizeye@parliament.uk</a>
Web	<a href="http://www.vaizey.com">www.vaizey.com</a>
Tel	0207 219 6350

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

**The NPPF and what's left of Localism**

The fall-out from the 160 home Taylor Wimpey application in South Abingdon has had an enormous impact on the way that OCC Transport/Highway officers can argue traffic impact as a reason for refusing an application. The NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) states that the impact on traffic must be "severe" before traffic can be used to block an application. Various pieces of case law have demonstrated that unless traffic is at an almost complete and permanent standstill, it will not be deemed "severe" enough. This puts OCC officers, VWHDC officers and planning committee

members under enormous pressure to overlook traffic implications in almost all cases. In short, the NPPF trumps almost all traffic considerations.

Much the same situation has now arisen over "safe routes to school" in the same South Abingdon application. After months of wrangling, the OCC Cabinet have agreed that arguments over the safety of proposed pedestrian crossings in Ock St and Marcham Rd in Abingdon are trumped by the NPPF pressure to allow housebuilding. In short, the NPPF trumps child and pedestrian safety.

The VWHDC Planning committee's decision to pass the latest iteration of the giant Warehouse on the edge of Sutton Courtenay because traffic impact is deemed to be "not severe enough", air quality "not bad enough", scale "not large enough" and cumulative impact of 500 odd houses + Didcot B + FCC recycling+ Milton Park not large enough" to warrant refusal, is the latest example of the NPPF's enormous impact on planning. Indeed, one begins to wonder if planning committees have any room for manoeuvre at all. Faced with County and District Officer recommendations to accept applications, it seems that the financial risks are so great that refusal of large scale applications is all but impossible.

A select committee of MPs from all parties made recommendations to the Minister for Local Government broadly in support of the arguments above and that the NPPF was in need of modification. The Minister, in his wisdom, disagreed stating that he felt the NPPF was delivering housing and growth as it was designed to do, and there was no need to modify it.

So there we are. More houses, more jobs, more traffic, more growth and, under the NPPF, at almost any cost. The problem for our area is the very uneven dispersion of the population. 90% of population, along with the jobs and the traffic is crammed into about 5% of the available land. Abingdon, Didcot and all the villages in between are on the verge of merging. We may just about get away with our planned numbers and allocations for 2031, but heaven help us if we cannot find a better solution thereafter.

Politicians need to be starting a grown-up conversation on 2031 solutions now – not in 15 years - a conversation which allows the voice of Localism (so drowned by the NPPF) to be heard.."

**RICHARD WEBBER CLLR, OCC**

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or 01235 534001  
<https://cllrRichardWebber.wordpress.com>

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

We are both entirely in support of the sentiment of Keith Mersh's article in last months' MAD News, in which he urges all parties interested in the future of Marcham, its recreational and leisure facilities and its need for a Village Hall, to get together and begin some serious talking without pre-conditions.

The meeting we held in the Parish Church in November was a first step in this direction. Representatives from all interested parties were present and there was some initial agreement as to how we could take the process forward. That meeting was called at the suggestion of the Anson Trust.

It is imperative that we do not allow the positive feelings, which that meeting may have generated, to dissipate. It is essential that interest groups are not allowed to retrench but each is encouraged to stay "round the table".

The problem with the initial meeting was that there were too many people present to allow any detailed discussion, so we have to find a way of reducing the number of participants whilst allowing everyone to feel that their views are being represented.

There is also an issue that those around the table should be speaking and be seen to be speaking for all those they represent. Those are the problems, and we are attending separate meetings of the interested parties to try to bring this about.

The ultimate goal is a grand plan for Marcham, which addresses most of the problems, a plan that everyone can sign up to with enthusiasm – including OCC and VWHDC.

It will not be easy, but it is not impossible. We will keep you posted on progress.

**CATHERINE WEBBER, CLLR**

01235 534001 or [catherinewebber@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:catherinewebber@hotmail.co.uk)

**MARCHAM BABY AND TODDLER GROUP**

The Christmas party was a busy happy event with 18 families attending for games, food and a visit from Santa, thank you all for coming and helping with the clearing up!

We look forward to new parents/carers joining us this year we meet every Tuesday at All Saints Church Marcham 09.45-11.15 first visit is free then £2 per family which includes refreshments. There are toys for babies, craft and singing for toddlers and time for a coffee and chat for the adults. We are a very friendly group so please do pop along ,with family and friends. Sue Gibbling [Treasurer].

**Do come and join us!**

**MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS**

The children at pre-school have been exploring plants and growing. We will be fundraising through the **Marie Curie mini Pots of Care**, so we've been planting daffodils, painting pictures, watching, waiting and measuring the emerging sprouting stems. We have more activities planned to learn about the work that this charity does, as well as watching our flowers grow. We have also been enjoying our transformed outdoor area, our new 'racing' track and mechanics resources. We've been racing, balancing and repairing the vehicles! Purchased with funds from the joint fundraising efforts of the Early Year's Partnership between Marcham Pre-school and Marcham Primary school, it is fantastic to see the children play and learn together! Thank you to everyone who has contributed to Bag2school, and other joint events in the past.



We would also like to say a big thank you to the family and friends of the late **Joan Steptoe** who lived in Marcham for many years. The family kindly donated the collection in memory of Mrs Steptoe to Marcham Pre-school and we received £178.50. As Mrs Steptoe enjoyed gardening and nature, we plan to invest in improving this area of our setting, which will also support our current topic. Thank you once again.

The support and contributions from the village community, parents, and of course the children, is what continues to make Marcham Pre-school the successful and thriving setting that it is. The children flourish and bring excitement and enthusiasm to every day. To experience this for yourself and for your family, please contact us today to discuss your needs. We take children from their 2nd birthday, and have spaces for September 2015. Ring on 01865 392101, email: marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk or visit us in the Primary school.

marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk,

or via our website [www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com](http://www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com)

**Robert and Michael Steptoe would like to thank everyone for their kind donations towards their late mother's favourite charity, Marcham Pre-School. It gives them great pleasure to be able to help the children and know that the money will be put to good use.**

**Hello from Anna**

I work for Scope and coordinate a project in Oxford called Face 2 Face. We have a team of trained volunteer befrienders who support parents of disabled children in Oxfordshire. We offer confidential, free support and many parents find it really helpful to talk to another parent who has been there, who understands how they may feel and can let them know about other services they may want to use in the local area.

We support parents of children with any additional needs, they don't need a diagnosis and can self-refer by contacting [anna.hinton@scope.org.uk](mailto:anna.hinton@scope.org.uk) or ringing 07775926572.



Happy New Year to everyone! We had such a busy end to 2014, we had a carol concert for our nursery (nearly 100 family members came to watch), two Christmas parties and throughout learning about the spirit of Christmas and the special day for Jesus! What a busy month, so apologies we have missed MADNews.



**Pre-School Room**

Everyone is pleased to have returned to join us after a fun Christmas break. The pre-school room has been learning about numbers through lots of fun ways. We have been counting everything we can, from the number of children in the room, the number of items we see beginning with a letter sound, to counting while we play hide and seek! We have also been incorporating numbers into stories and especially enjoyed Goldilocks and the three bears. We acted the story with our very own chairs and beds, then we made Goldilocks and the bears! This allowed us to look at maths in lots of details throughout the story, such as sizes and new words to describe the textures of items. We even got to start the day with a warm bowl of porridge ourselves! We also had a Thomas the Tank Engine day where we looked at Thomas and his friends and then created our very own train station. Choo choo off we go!! We went everywhere from London to Scotland and to the beach!

**Baby Room**

The babies have also been busy enjoying looking at numbers as well, predominantly in rhymes and songs. One of our favourite songs is 5 little ducks, where we made five ducks and played with different sized ducks, even the water was great fun! Splashing around was fun but messy! We have all been getting messy by painting lots, making marks with paintbrush, our fingers or hand printing. It is amazing seeing their faces when they realise they have created something from the paint!

**All of us at Little Angels would like to take this opportunity to thank Mo for providing us with and coming to help up us make Gingerbread Men before Christmas- everyone had a great time. Thank you Mo!**

**After School Club**

Wow, we are back for the Spring term (even though it is very cold)! Skipping is still a big craze and we have even invented our own skipping competition! Everyone enjoys taking part and having a go to see how many skips they can achieve. The competition is also in place with Matt, we are all trying to make sure we can beat his score at basketball and it is getting close! Our artistic side is also emerging by our amazing drawings of events that occur, you will regularly see a large group gathered around the writing table. If they are not there then they are playing monopoly to see who can build houses and hotels. It has been a busy few weeks and everyone is looking forward to see what else we will get up to! At the start of this new year we gave the children questionnaires to find out what they would like as we are always trying to improve, they came up with some interesting ideas form a climbing frame to a pet hamster/gerbil!! But great fun reading their comments.

If you would like any further information about Abingdon Little Angels Nursery, After School Club, Holiday Club or Art Club please feel free to call in or telephone us on 07516 474287 or email [info@abingdonlittleangels.co.uk](mailto:info@abingdonlittleangels.co.uk)

**GOING-WILD-WITH-WILDLIFE-CD**

Stuart is selling CDs of highlights from his radio wildlife show no EBay.

[www.ebay.co.uk/itm/Going-Wild-with-Wildlife-CD-/261739950650](http://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/Going-Wild-with-Wildlife-CD-/261739950650)



**Happy Listening**

**STUART MABBUTT**

Wildlife Gardening Specialist 01865 747243

**Against Breast Cancer**

is excited to announce that the **2015 Regis Classic Car Tour of Southern England** will be supporting our sponsored research into new treatments



for breast cancer. **The Regis Classic Car Tour** aims to visit and explore a different area of the country each year, enjoying local food and drink and celebrating what is unique and special in that area. Each year they try to raise as much money for charity as possible whilst enjoying a fun, social weekend with like-minded folk and their cherished classic cars. Make sure you don't miss out, contact the event organiser Ali Green on 01243 542674 or email [theregisclassictour@btinternet.com](mailto:theregisclassictour@btinternet.com).

**Classic Oxfordshire Cycle Ride Sunday 3rd May 2015**

Support your local breast cancer charity and join us on the Classic Oxfordshire Bike Ride!

Now in its 10th year this is a fabulous cycling event and fantastic opportunity to explore Oxfordshire's stunning countryside. The route passes through pretty villages & lush spring countryside alongside the River Thames as it winds from South Oxfordshire up to Abingdon and into the Vale of White Horse. Visiting countryside of beautiful half-timbered cottages, green riverbanks and colourful marketplaces, it's a great start to the cycling season!

Choose either the 30, 60, 75 mile route or the family friendly 12 mile great escape ride. Leave the hustle and bustle behind you!

Starting and finishing at Harwell, the route is suitable for seasoned cyclists, leisure cyclists and families looking for a fun day out together. Refreshments and toilet facilities are available en route.

Adult Entry £19.50 Team Entry (6 or more, per person) £19.00

Children's Entry (14 & under) £7.50

GR8 Escape Ride (accompanying Adult) £8.00

GR8 Escape Ride (under 14 - max 3 per Adult) £3.50

So don't delay – join us in the fight against breast cancer!

E-mail Emma or Sarah at [events@againstbreastcancer.org.uk](mailto:events@againstbreastcancer.org.uk) or call 01235 534211 today!

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

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



**Plant sale**

**Fundraising for RDA Abingdon Group**

**10am-1pm Saturday 9 May**

As well as supporting the sale itself, if you normally grow your own vegetables and plants from seed and cuttings could we encourage you to sow and propagate a few more in the coming months to sell at the plant sale?

Any questions get in touch with Sarah Wilkinson on 07814 397192 or email [sarahwilkinson123@gmail.com](mailto:sarahwilkinson123@gmail.com)

**JAZZ IN THE VALE**



Music in the Vale proudly presents vocalist-violinist-composer Alice Zawadzki in a concert programme entitled "Jazz in the Vale". The concert will include works from Alice's debut album "China Lane" - a compelling collection of songs that have been described as modern fairy tales. She is joined by her regular band of some of the UK's most celebrated jazz musicians. Alice is a real rising star in today's jazz world and has recently featured in Jamie Cullum's jazz programme on Radio 2, and has performed at the London and Manchester Jazz Festivals.

**Where:** St. Denys' Church, Church Green, Stanford in the Vale, SN7 8HU

**When:** 7 February 7:30pm to 9:30pm

**How much:** £12.00

Admission is by programme, cost £12 from Vogue Hairdressing, 28 High Street, Stanford in the Vale, telephone 01367 710476, by reservation on 01367 718420, email [djpedderdpa@btinternet.com](mailto:djpedderdpa@btinternet.com), or at the door.

February 2015

THE **OXFORD HOME SERVICE LTD**

**DOMESTIC CLEANING TEAM MEMBERS**

Part Time £7.00 per hour

We are recruiting new team members to join our long established premium home cleaning business based in Wootton, Abingdon to work 9am – 2.30pm and offer between two and five days per week (Mon-Fri).

Previous experience in a similar field is desirable but not essential as all necessary training is provided.

We value personality over experience.

Car owners essential.

Mileage allowance paid at 40p per mile.

Part uniform provided.

28 days holiday pro rata per annum.

Application forms can be downloaded from our website.

01865 736777

[enquiries@oxfordhomeserviceltd.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@oxfordhomeserviceltd.co.uk)

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

**Earth Trust Events**



**Sun 1st Feb, 10am-2pm Wings and Wheels**

Bring the whole family's bikes along for a health check **and** we will teach you some simple maintenance tips. Also plenty of family activities on offer including bird spotting and kite making. £4 donation per child; £4 donation per adult with a bike. No need to book, just drop in.

**Sun 8th Feb, 10am-4pm Heritage Skills Taster Session: Hedgelaying**

Have a go at hedgelaying in this free taster session. Book for the morning (10am-1pm) or afternoon (1.30pm-4pm) session.

**Sun 14th & Sun 15th Feb, 9.30am-4pm Introduction to Hedgelaying**

A hands-on 2 day course learning to lay a hedge. Specialist tools and equipment will be provided. £75; booking essential.

**Tues 17th Feb, 6pm-9pm Bike Mechanics for Teenagers**

A 3 hour workshop to help you make sure your bike is safe to ride and teach you some essential maintenance. Don't forget your bike! £30; booking essential.

**Fri 20th Feb, 10am-12pm Discover and Play**

Forest School for pre-school children. Join us for a morning of play and discovery in our woodlands. Forest School offers hands on learning experiences in a natural environment. £4 donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free; no need to book but please arrive at the stated start time.

More details [www.earthtrust.org.uk](http://www.earthtrust.org.uk)

Little Wittenham, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 4QZ 01865 407792

Oxfordshire Welsh Society

present a

**Gala Charity Concert Celebrating**

**St David's Day**

**Featuring the**

**South Wales Male Voice Choir**

With star guests

RHYS MEIRION, TENOR

LLIO EVANS, SOPRANO

OXFORD TOWN HALL St. Aldates, Oxford

SATURDAY 28th FEBRUARY 2015 - 7pm

TICKETS £15 Available from:

Oxford Playhouse 01865 305305

Oxford Town Hall (Museum Gift Shop) 01865 252334

Colin Edwards 01865 552629

SUPPORTING THAMES VALLEY AIR AMBULANCE TRUST



# Reconciliation

Over the last twelve months, I have been thinking a lot around the issue of reconciliation. I've commented in this page on the story of Ian Paisley and Martin McGuinness and the way that they laid aside their past differences and brought peace to Northern Ireland. The same too applied to the story of Nelson Mandela who, after years in prison came into government and saw the end of apartheid. Mandela chose not to go down the road of retribution but instead laid aside all bitterness. The example mentioned last month, of the 1914 Christmas truce, where soldiers climbed out of their trenches and realized that they were not so different from each other is also an example to us all.

In the last few days, I was curious how reconciliation is handled in a larger arena. The Conflict Research Consortium, University of Colorado, focuses on the study of settling international disputes and says this on one of their webpages:

*Reconciliation is the ultimate goal of peacebuilding. It occurs when disputants develop a new relationship based on apology, forgiveness, and newly established trust. .... reconciliation involves all those processes. It brings people together, enabling them to grow beyond the past to re-establish a normalized, peaceful, and trusting relationship in the present. ....*

It seems that looking at those international experiences, there needs to be a willingness to do three things.

- to lay aside the past, being prepared to apologize and to receive the apology of the other party with grace.
- to forgive and to receive that forgiveness gracefully from the other party.
- to be prepared to genuinely listen to each other, being prepared to concede that the other party or parties might have a valid point to make.

So what does scripture say about this issue? There is no doubt that forgiveness and reconciliation is the most important part of the good news. The subject is not just one of reconciliation between mankind and God but also one of reconciliation between individuals or groups. Reconciliation is probably the major Christian theme.

The issue of reconciliation is a subject, which Jesus spoke much about. A commentary on the subject says this:

*When a person wrongs us, bitterness places within us a wall against that person; a roadblock in our way of building a reconciled relationship. If we are to destroy the roadblock that is in the way of restoring a right relationship, then forgiveness is basically a choice that we must make. If an individual has done something wrong against another and it has caused them to hold a grudge against you, then it is your responsibility to go to that person and try to make things right. Your goal should be to be reconciled with that person.*

*But isn't it a lot easier to forgive somebody when they come to us first and offer their apology? When you go to somebody and ask for their forgiveness, what you are doing is helping them to break down the roadblock that is in the way of that reconciliation and a restored relationship.*

The issue of reconciliation is one that can apply to us all, in our personal relationships, between family members or between friends. When those relationships have problems, it could be something major but might just be as a result of something small, or even merely a misunderstanding. But regardless of the magnitude of the felt hurt, a refusal to forgive by one party can be overcome by humility and genuine repentance by the one who has caused the hurt. Similarly, a willingness to take the initiative to forgive can be what breaks down the barriers of hurt and grievance.

But that issue of being reconciled one to another can also apply between groups .....not just internationally but at a more local level .....groups who have been unable to understand the position taken by those they are in conflict with.

As The Conflict Research Consortium in Colorado said:, *Reconciliation occurs when disputants develop a new relationship based on apology, forgiveness, and newly established trust. Reconciliation involves all those processes. It brings people together, enabling them to grow beyond the past to re-establish a normalized, peaceful, and trusting relationship in the present.*

Let's make the choice to apologise, forgive .....and then learn to trust ..... so to break down the walls that divide us and move on.

**Keith Mersh, Pastor Marcham Baptist Church**

For more information, contact

Keith Mersh - Pastor 01865 391881

Bill Dyer - Elder 01235 814986

## Speakers in February

1 Feb - Wendy Manley

8 Feb - Paul Revell

15 Feb - Tim Jack

22 Feb - Ralph Green

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



## All Saints' and St. Luke's Parish Page

Dear Friends,

At this time of year many of us turn our thoughts to warmer days, and begin (if we have not done so already) to think about summer holidays and booking time out from the pressures of usual routines. I always find this is not without its own pressures: where would we like to go? For how long? With which travel company? What type of accommodation? And finally, can we afford it?

Taking time out is important, whether for a few moments each day or for longer periods scattered through the year. Jesus himself frequently took time apart from the pressures of his ministry – to rest, to pray, to have time with those closest to him. The once a week 'time out' – the Sabbath, is written into the Ten Commandments.

One of the dangers of not making space is that we allow the 'noise' of our busyness to drown out the still small voice of God. God does want to speak to us in many and various ways – but are we listening?

This month sees the start of Lent (Ash Wednesday is on 18<sup>th</sup> February). Why not use this period of reflection to make space to listen to God (through prayer, observing the beauty of the natural world, worshipping God with fellow believers, reading a Christian meditation, perhaps listening to a talk or sermon) – there are so many ways and avenues through which God speaks.

Whatever space you take, may you hear God's voice in a fresh way this Lent, and may the disciplines of time out and listening bring great refreshment and joy.

With my warmest Lenten greetings

**Revd Richard Zair**

We warmly invite you to any or all of our services in the Parish Church of All Saints'.

This month we continue to study the Gospel of Mark and find out more about Jesus.

### Regular services:

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

**Wednesdays:** 10.30 am Holy Communion at Duffield Place

### Prayer

We have regular opportunities for prayer

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb at 9.30**, 11 Sweetbriar is 'Prayer for the persecuted Church'

**Thursday Mornings at 9.30** in the church is a chance to come together with others for prayer. **The prayer chapel** in the church is always open for personal prayer through daylight hours

### February Dates:

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb - Men's Breakfast in MSSC

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> – Progressive Supper

### Parish People:

**Funerals:** We remember the family of Florence Walters in our prayers.

**Baptisms:** Our prayers are also with William Cousins and Oriel Etle who were both baptized on 4<sup>th</sup> Jan.

**Contacts:** Rev. Richard Zair 391319 (r\_zair@yahoo.co.uk)

Parish Office: parish\_office41@yahoo.co.uk

Jill Rowe *Youth and Children's Minister* 390885

Tim Jack *Churchwarden* 01865 864900

Tamsin Gilbert *Administrator* 391319