

All Saints' Marcham with St. Luke's Garford

People and Events

People you meet ...

Nikki Gibbins, our Youth and Children's Minister, has been working in the parish for all of eight months but is well known to the children in Marcham School, at Youth Club and at Larkmead. On Sundays Nikki is one of the team who care for the children who come to 10am Morning Worship as well as leading at Friday Club which is held each week at Manor Farm for primary age children. On Tuesdays Nikki leads a cell group for older teenagers. We are grateful to the Parish Council, to two local trusts and to a parish in Winchester for their financial support for her work.

Michael and Jenny Kelsey moved to Sweet Briar before Christmas and have quickly made themselves known including Wednesdays at Holy Communion at Duffield Place and, Jenny, at Tuesday morning Toddlers, now held in church. Michael was previously Vicar of St. John's, Blackheath in S.E. London (famous for the start of the Marathon) and Jenny has served as a mission partner in Africa.

Pamela Shirras is as surprised as Eddie to realise that we have only actually lived in Marcham for just over two years—we feel so much at home here. As well as leading three Alpha courses—introducing the Christian Faith—Pamela has preached and led services in church and done plenty of visiting. Since last October you might not have seen her so often as she trains in Oxford in preparation for ordination at the end of September. As our Associate Minister you should be seeing more of her again.

Church Works.

Not so long ago, someone very well wrapped up, attending a funeral in All Saints' said 'it's always cold in Marcham Church'. Thankfully that is no longer true; our new heating system has proved its effectiveness throughout the past winter and has made the church welcoming for Toddlers on Tuesday morning and Rainbow Guides on Saturday as well as the Marcham Society monthly meeting. The old boiler house and brick chimney at the n.w. corner of the church are due to be demolished soon and the space grassed over.

Among other repairs at the church in the past year were the stained glass window next to the small s.e. door—it had suffered heat damage in the summer of 2003 and a kind bequest helped pay for that very skilful restoration.

One of our church members did a great job on the church light at the main gate—it not only lights the steps at the gate but also the noticeboard.

But by far the biggest repairs so far this year have been to the tower where the stonework at the top was getting dangerous and had loosened owing to the effect of pigeon guano and the weather. Not only has the stone parapet been repaired, and replaced where needed, but pigeon proofing has been fixed at the top and at a lower ledge. It looks like hundreds of fine radio aerials; watch where the pigeons dare to land now. The cost of this major work was paid from general church funds thanks to generous giving in 2004.

Pentecost at Marcham

During the week leading up to Pentecost Sunday, 15 May, and on the day itself we shall be welcoming a team from Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, led by the lively, experienced preacher Michael Green, one time vicar of St. Aldates'. Most of the team are on a one year course, some here from the USA.

As well as bringing their enthusiasm to our regular events like Friday Club (on 13 May) which will be followed by a barbeque they will speak at:

Two Breakfasts

As well as our regular monthly Men's Breakfast (postponed a week to 14 May) there will also be a breakfast for women on the same day. Watch out for invitations to these Saturday breakfasts as well as to:

Two Buffet Suppers

Some stimulating topics are likely:
Has Christianity been buried by science?
Has the da Vinci Code got it right?

Open Church Tea Party

On Sunday 15 May itself there will be plenty of time to meet our visitors during tea at church, as well as activities for children. This follows a similar successful event last autumn. And there will be a question time after 10am Morning Worship.

Contacts

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