



▲ Maths fun at Marcham School see page 13



**Spring forward with the hour on 27 March!**

▼ Little Angels see page 13



▼ WI Royal Invitation see page 9



▲ Welcome Carly Milward, PCSO

Carly is the new PCSO for Marcham, Wootton and Sunningwell neighbourhoods. For more information about local policing join her at a Have Your Say Meeting (see page 9), leave a message on 0845 8 505 505 or go to [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk).



## DIARY FOR MARCH

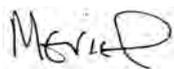
2 Wed	MCG Supporters Meeting, Marcham School 19.30 - 21.00	7	15 Tue	MCG Coffee and Cake Morning, MSSSC, 10.00 – 11.30	13
4 Fri	Women's World Day of Prayer, Marcham Baptist Church 11.00	9	17 Thur	Marcham WI, Denman College 19.15 <b>note early start</b>	9
4 Fri	MP's Surgery, Didcot, 17.30 – 19.00	11	18 Fri	MP's Surgery, Faringdon, 17.30 – 19.00	11
4 Fri	Marcham CC Nets start, Radley College, 19.00 – 21.00	11	19 Sat	Abingdon European Society, St Helen's Church Centre, 19.15	15
5 Sat	Facts for Families, Woodstock, 09.45 – 13.00	15	19 Sat	Marcham School PTA Table Top Sale, 10.30 – 12.30	13
8 Tue	Marcham Society, All Saints', 19.45	9	19 Sat	Wantage Choral Society, Wantage Civic Hall, 19.30	15
9 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3	20 Sun	<b>Deadline for March issue of MADNews</b>	
10 Thur	Midweek Walk The Strickland Arms (Map Ref SP356078), Ducklington 12.30 lunch / 13.30 walk	9	25 Thur	Have Your Say, Duffield Place, 20.00 – 22.00	9
11 Fri	Tea Dance, Wantage Civic Hall, 14.00 – 16.30	9	26 Fri	WWF Earth Hour 20.30	15
			31 Thur	Marcham Ex-Servicemen's Club Subscriptions Due	5

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

Dear Readers

The MADNews team would like to thank everyone and every organisation who has contributed articles, notices, reports, time, expertise, elbow grease, patience, proof-reading and finance to make sure that MADNews continues to thrive. "The Big Society" is very much in the news at the moment, but I am proud to be part of a tradition at MADNews that pre-dates that idea by some 33 years ... and counting!

Until next time



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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.

**NOTES**

*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.

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

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March 2011

**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS  
Congratulations to Marcham and District News**

The Council would like to compliment MADNews on the quality of the printing and appearance of the newsletter since the acquisition of the new printer. The Council recognises the voluntary efforts of the editor and her team, and very much appreciates the opportunity of using MADNews to circulate Parish Council information to all. It is hoped that the new printer will ease the production task each month. Long may the high standard of printing continue.

**Parish Council Elections – May 2011**

The term of office for the current Parish Council comes to an end in May. Elections will be held on 5th May when a new Council, comprising 10 members, will be formed for the next 4 years. The Parish Council is an elected tier of local government. Its meetings are held in the evening on a monthly basis. It has been granted powers by Parliament through legislation and can only act within those powers granted. It serves just the parish of Marcham. It maintains the cemetery jointly with Frilford parish, the play area in the Anson field, village green, and allotments and can provide bus shelters, seats, litter bins etc. In addition it has a statutory right to be consulted on all planning applications in its area and its views are taken into account when the planning decision is made. It is often consulted on other local matters as well, having a representative on local committees. The Parish Council plays a vital part in representing the interests of the community which it serves and is an effective lobby group influencing the other decision makers.

Parish Councillors can either own land or work in the parish, be on the electoral roll or live up to 3 miles outside the parish boundary. Should anyone be interested in standing as a candidate, then nomination forms and further information will be available in due course from the Vale of White Horse District Council, Abbey House, Abbey Close, Abingdon tel: 01235 520202 who is handling the election process or from the Parish Clerk whose details are below. The deadline for receipt of nomination forms, which have to be returned to the Vale of White Horse District Council, is noon on Monday 4th April, 2011.

**Salvation Army Textile Bank**

The Parish Council has learned that the Fundraising Standards Board had asked the Salvation Army to deal with a public complaint about the charity's arrangement with its commercial clothing bank partner. The Council genuinely thought that the clothes and textiles donated in the bank in Howard Cornish Road helped local people, or raised funds to help the charity. The

Council was surprised to learn that there has been national press coverage criticising the arrangement that the Salvation Army had with clothing bank partner and is saddened that local donations may not have been used as intended. The Council is monitoring the situation, and has written to the Salvation Army.

**Oxfordshire County Council – Street Lights – Night Time Conversions**

The Parish Council is contacting the County Council regarding the night time conversions. That Council some while ago undertook to convert some street lights to night time conversions i.e. to turn them off from 12.30 a.m., and to switch back on, some that it had already turned off. The Parish Council, some while ago, carefully produced a list of those to be switched off and those to be left on, after considering the wishes of residents. The final adjustments to the lights were due to be carried out a few weeks ago, but it appears the works may have been delayed by the bad winter weather around Christmas time. The Parish Council is continuing to ask the County Council to complete the alterations to the timings of the street lights.

**Date of Next Council Meeting:**

Wednesday 9 March 2011 at 7.30pm. in the residents' lounge, 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)

**HELP NEEDED**

We are a friendly family who live in Tubney and have 3 children (ages 10, 8, 8). I am looking for a responsible person to help out mainly Friday afternoons PLUS 1-2 nights of evening babysitting. The hours would be roughly 1:30-6:00pm Fridays. During those hours, I would ask you to babysit my 8-yr old twins and do light domestic tasks like ironing and Hoovering, and then some local driving to activities for the children. The evening babysitting would involve 1 weekend night per week and 1 weekday night. Those nights may change from week to week and can be flexible. You will need a car to arrive to our house, but you can use our car for driving the children around if you prefer. This position would suit someone who has another part-time job, is studying, or perhaps a pensioner who would like a bit of supplementary income. Must be an experienced driver, flexible, responsible, and happy to be with children! Must provide local references that I can speak with. I look forward to hearing from you at [lori\\_bellings@hotmail.com](mailto:lori_bellings@hotmail.com) or 07834 609 570

**Marcham Community Building/The Institute**

*Dear Editor*

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the meeting of the Marcham Community Group held at the school hall on 14th January. I was at the first meeting and found it informative.

I have just viewed the Marcham Community Group web site. Under Background, Direction of the Group, they state that the village has been without a community building (The Institute) since 2005. This indicates that no building exists, and of course we all know that it does.

The building is a solid substantial building. The large hall, the kitchens and the ancillary areas have unfortunately stood unused since the Anson Trust closed them, forcing out all long term local users and closing its occasional use for private parties, weddings, etc. The small hall is leased by the Ex-Servicemen's Club.

The Community Group made it very clear at the first public that they have no funds and that they believe that the way forward to protect the Anson Field is for the Trust to sell the Institute, and for the Community group to use this money to build a new hall on part of the Anson Field.

The Institute exists, no money is required to purchase land, no massive amounts of spend for rebuilding, planning, drainage etc. etc. Yes, some work is necessary on the Institute, the Anson Trust have said that there is money for refurbishment without selling off the Field.

The Institute is in the middle of the village. Not as planned by the Trust behind the trees on the outskirts of the village with access across a Bus route.

The Institute could be available for many of the village recreations and pastimes, and again for weddings, theatre groups, pre-school activities etc... It could also be available before, during and after sporting activities on the Anson Field, via the path; which could be resurfaced and lit. This would also give access to overflow parking for the Institute when necessary, alleviating street parking.

Why are both the Trust and the Community Group wanting to sell off the Trusts assets? Why are the members of the Community Group putting all their effort into spending lots of money (which they do not have) instead of putting all this expertise into making the Existing Community Hall, The institute, into the Marcham Village Hall at a fraction of the cost?

**BRIAN HARROW**

- o o o -

*Dear Editor*

Brian Harrow has raised interesting questions about Marcham Community Group, the Anson Trust and the future of the Institute in the context of developing new facilities for the community.

It is clear that the Institute is owned by the Anson Trust and the Anson Trust is responsible for its management and future.  
March 2011

MCG is in active discussions with Anson Trustees about our broad plans for the community and the economic realities. We are also aware of the limitations of the Institute building, the site it occupies, and of the very substantial costs that would be involved in any major refurbishment, along with maintenance and operation costs in the long term.

At the same time, MCG is planning a major consultation across the whole community to understand community needs and the potential range of uses for a new facility in Marcham, backed by an ambitious fundraising campaign. Long-term sustainability is a critical requirement. We have made a commitment that the views of the community, along with development of a clear practical plan to best meet these needs, will guide what MCG does.

**THE MCG DIRECTORS**

- o o o -

*Dear Editor*

We read the letter from Brian Harrow with interest. Whatever the Anson Trust does over the next few years by way of developing its facilities, we have to ensure that we provide facilities that people in the village will want to use and are financially viable.

In terms of facilities the Institute has some problems. As Mr Harrow notes, the Institute is not adjacent to any open space and is, therefore, not suitable for many users. The Institute is too small for many functions, there is a maximum number of people allowed in at any one time. There are restrictions on its use in the evenings. Car parking is limited. Between these problems, the Institute is just not suitable for many of the functions that Mr Howard mentions. Realistically, the Institute does not provide facilities the village will want to use.

In terms of finances, the Institute lost substantial amounts on money when it was in use (the figures are in the Post Office). With its limited potential we cannot see how these losses could be avoided if it were brought back into use. The Trust does not have the funds to subsidize these losses. On top of this, the cost of bringing the Institute back onto use is substantial. Mr Harrow is incorrect when he says that the Trust has money available to do this work – it doesn't.

Overall developing the Institute does not provide the facilities the village needs or work financially. As one of the people at the original village meeting said "My heart says reopen the Institute, my head says don't" – we have to agree with her.

If Mr Harrow, or anyone else, would like to meet to discuss the matter further, we would be happy to do so.

**DIRECTORS ANSON TRUST**

**METAL THEFTS**

Over the past 12 months we have seen a huge increase in metal (lead & copper) thefts from houses & commercial premises. In order to increase awareness, encourage reporting and lower the level of these crimes we are contacting all home owners, tenants and business premises who have lead or copper on their properties or who are having construction work carried out.

Where possible:

- Put sensor security lights up.
- Lock and secure all tools, ladders away.
- Be aware of any unusual behaviour in your street, (vans driving slowly up & down, people paying particular interest to your property).
- Report any suspicious activity to the police.
- Report any thefts as soon as possible.

By following this straightforward advice, and working together, we can ensure that this type of crime starts falling.

**Abingdon Neighbourhood Team  
0845 8 505 505**

**FOR SALE**

Wooden boxed SUDOKU set, unopened. Originally £30, would accept offers above £15. Not available in UK shops. Includes tray, 81 pieces and 81 memory markers. Ideal gift (for the numerate!)

Tel 01865 391489.

Can be collected or delivered.

**MARCHAM AND DISTRICT EX  
SERVICEMEN'S CLUB  
NORTH STREET MARCHAM  
OXON OX13 6NG  
NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS**

**Annual Subscriptions Due by  
March 31st 2011**

Payments may be made in the Club during normal opening hours

**NOTICE TO ALL LIFE MEMBERS**

All life members including widows and widowers of members are reminded that they must register in writing to the secretary at the above address, or register at the Club each and every year they wish to remain on the list of current Life Members. The closing date of this registration is March 31st. each year. Please note that those failing to respond by March 31st 2011 will no longer be considered Members their names will be removed from the register of Members and Life Members

**Chairman November 2010**

A list of currently registered members / life members valid until 31st March 2011 is available to be viewed in the Cub during the Clubs normal opening hours  
THE ABOVE RULE HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE AFTER BEING CLARIFIED BY HODSONS SOLICITORS OF ABINGDON. ALL NECESSARY PUBLICATION AND NOTICES ARRANGED BY HODSONS SOLICITORS OF STRATTON WAY ABINGDON. OCTOBER 2008

# Marcham Community Group

The community working together  
to build and maintain meeting and leisure facilities  
for everyone in and around Marcham

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

[mail@marcham.org](mailto:mail@marcham.org)

**YOUR  
LOGO DESIGN  
IN THIS SPACE**

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Under MCG rules membership subscriptions will be set annually by the AGM but until the first AGM the Directors will decide the amounts. The Directors believe that subscriptions should be low to avoid them being a barrier to membership and have in mind the subscriptions listed below. However, they would like feedback from the community on both the principle and the amounts and will ask for your comments at the meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March - see right hand column.

The directors propose that initial subscriptions should run until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012 and should be:

- £5.00 for a single adult membership which gives one vote
- £8.00 for a family membership for one address which gives two votes
- Free junior membership for those up to age 18

**Come and join MCG at the meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March.**

To join after 2<sup>nd</sup> March you can download a membership form from [www.marcham.org](http://www.marcham.org) or phone 391193 (Suzanne).

## MCG SUPPORTERS MEETING ON

WEDNESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH

7.30 - 9.00PM AT THE SCHOOL

## ALL WELCOME

The main effort of the MCG since the last public meeting has been focused on drafting a business plan. We would like to 'road test' it at the meeting and would particularly welcome comments on the assumptions behind the numbers.

Other topics will include membership subscriptions, how to involve the younger members of the local community in the MCG, and planning fundraising activities.

COME AND JOIN THE MCG AT THE MEETING

As a member you will be able to elect directors of the MCG at each AGM and to vote on resolutions. You will also be able to take part directly in all MCG activities.

## PROGRESS THIS MONTH

MCG now has a bank account and we are applying for tax status as a charity that will allow us to claim gift aid. In preparing the business plan we have been in contact with the committees of village halls in the local area and are looking at their accounts and the ways the halls are used. We have also started a programme of talking to all village organisations. Joey Maclean has been welcomed as a new member of the Directors Group. She will be responsible for coordinating fundraising activities.

## MCG'S FIRST FUNDRAISING ACTIVITY WILL BE A COFFEE AND CAKE MORNING

10.00 - 11.30 AM TUESDAY 15 MARCH SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

## EVERYONE WELCOME

This is being organised by the Marcham Mothers and Toddlers Group. Come and enjoy the home made cakes.

## COULD YOU DESIGN A LOGO FOR THE MCG? COMPETITION CLOSING DATE IS 30<sup>th</sup> APRIL

The design could use letters or be a drawing or sketch, or any combination of these. It should work in black and white as well as in colour. The competition was launched last month and entries are coming in. Why don't you have a try? Anyone who lives locally can take part.

### Competition rules

1. The competition is open to all local residents and anyone with a strong local connection, and to all ages.
2. Entries can be drawn or printed on A4 paper or sent by email as JPEG or PDF files. Entries on paper should be sent to Suzanne Crafer, 3 All Saints' Close, Marcham. Electronic entries should be sent to [mail@marcham.org](mailto:mail@marcham.org). Please included your full name, address and phone number or email address. We regret we are unable to return entries. The closing date is 30<sup>th</sup> April 2011.
3. The entries will be judged by a panel set up by the Directors. Their decision will be final.

**TO CONTACT MCG** email [mail@marcham.org](mailto:mail@marcham.org) or phone 391193 (Suzanne) or 391507 (Jessica)

Marcham Community Group, Company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales number 7470307

Supporters meeting Wednesday 2 March 7.30 pm **ALL WELCOME**



## Marcham WI March 2011

This month Marcham WI will be back to more everyday business and events with our annual meeting at Denman College. This will be after all the excitement of Tuesday, 22nd February when 27 members of Marcham WI have been invited to attend a reception at Denman College in the presence of HRH The Duchess of Cornwall. She will be touring the college, visiting the main house, the cookery school and see students on various courses. The visit will end with a reception in the Ferris Room with the National Board of Trustees and the presentation of flowers by Sonia Edwards, President of Marcham WI.

At our annual meeting in March, the speaker will be the Reverend Helen Kendrick talking about Women in the Church. There will be an election for the committee and President. We have had a very good attendance at our meetings in the past months and our membership now stands at 58.

### Future Events

- Mar 9 Shakespeare at Denman with Jane Lapotaire
- Mar 15 Music Taster Day at Benson Village Hall
- Mar 22 Oxfordshire WI ACM, Oxford Town Hall
- Mar 25 Barn Dance at Horton cum Studley Village Hall
- Apr 6 An evening with Bob Flowerdew at Headington Girls School

### ANNUAL MEETING

7.15 pm *Note early start*  
Thursday 17 March 2011

### Women in the Church

*Reverend Helen Kendrick*

Visitors welcome - £3 voluntary contribution

Contacts for: Sonia Edwards 01865 391442  
more information Christine Whild 01865 391270

### Tea Dances

Civic Hall, Portway, Wantage OX12 9BX  
14.00 – 16.30 Fri 11 March  
£3 including tea and biscuits, parking nearby £1 for 3 hours  
Call 01235 763 456 for more details



### MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK

Thursday, March 10th 2011.

For this month's walk we will go to The Strickland Arms (Map Ref SP356078) in Ducklington at 12.30pm for lunch and 1.30pm for a level walk of just under 5 miles, along new permissive paths by the River Windrush to the hamlet of Hardwick, returning by gravel pits now turned in nature reserves. New walkers are always very welcome so do start the year in good company. Members free, non-members £1. Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and details.

### Have your say...

- Thursday, 25 March 2011 2000-2200  
Duffield Place, Marcham  
**Abingdon Outer Neighbourhood Team**  
NAG7 Marcham, Wootton, Shippon and Boars Hill  
Non-emergency number: 0845 8 505 505

### SENIOR CITIZENS

January was our first meeting after the Christmas break and thanks to better weather, although still cold, we had quite a turn out. It was our New Year's party and we spent a very pleasant afternoon enjoying the food that was prepared by the committee and music played on the keyboard.

Our February meeting will be a little more down-to-earth, it will be our AGM.

**JOYCE PARRY**

### Women's World Day of Prayer

The service this year has been arranged by the women of Chile, and will take place in the Baptist Church on Friday 4th March at 11am. Our speaker will be Ruth Corderoy. There will be a simple lunch afterwards in the Baptist Hall. You will be made most welcome.



### GARD UPDATE AND AGM DATE

We hope to have some news about the outcome of the Public Inquiry into Thames Water's draft Water Resources Management Plan in the near future, indeed, by the time of this newsletter's publication there may have been a press release or announcement as we understand the Inspector's Report has now passed through Defra, and presumably reached the Minister's Office.

It has been a long battle and the Minister's decision will affect all of us in the four villages surrounding the proposed reservoir site. Whatever the outcome there is nothing to prevent Thames Water bringing forward the proposal again in its next plan, even if the decision is broadly in our favour. However the Company's decision to opt for a reservoir which cannot be justified on the evidence of demand forecasts, and which is the most expensive solution should be reflected in the Inspector's Report.

We hope that Thames Water will be required to study and cost several more appropriate, sustainable and less environmentally damaging alternatives which it dismissed in its plan, in the event of a real need for more water resources becoming evident.

The AGM of GARD will be held at Stocks Lane Farm on Tuesday 22 March at 7.30 pm and we would welcome attendance by members, whom we thank for their support.

**NICK THOMPSON** Hon Chairman GARD

### HELP WANTED WEDNESDAYS MID-DAY

Marcham Café needs extra helpers to drive the village minibus to transport people to and from café. We also need a strong person to put away tables and awkward equipment after the meal. The same person might be able to do both jobs! Marcham Café provides a roast lunch at the Social Club on the Anson field every Wednesday during term-time so we would be pleased if our new helper stayed to lunch if they could. Pick up times starts about 11.30 and clear up time at about 1.20 p.m.!

If you think you could even on an occasional basis please contact Sheila Dunford 391439 or Jenny Allan 391373 and we could produce a rota. For insurance purposes drivers must be under 65.



The  
**Marcham  
Society**

## A Poor Place for the Industrial Population

*Liz Woolley*

*All Saints' Church Tuesday 8th March 2011, 7.45pm*

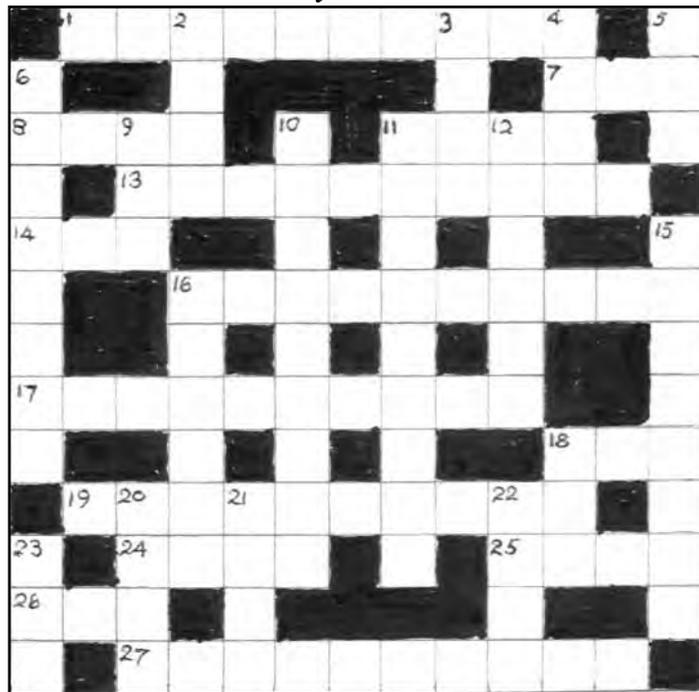
Next meeting 12th April 2011  
Collections of the Oxfordshire Museums

Non-members £2

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

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

**MARCH CROSSWORD** by Alisa



- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                             | <b>DOWN</b>                         |
| 1 What churchgoers do when they meet (10) | 2 Small piece of music (4)          |
| 7 Female animal (3)                       | 3 Unfortunately (4)                 |
| 8 Direction (4)                           | 4 Nymph spurned by Narcissus (4)    |
| 11 Long deep cut (4)                      | 5 Nocturnal bird (3)                |
| 13 Goggle—box (10)                        | 6 Type of raspberry jam (8)         |
| 14 Twenty four hours (3)                  | 9 Pig's home (3)                    |
| 16 Place near Oxford (10)                 | 10 Events in Wantage (3,6)          |
| 17 Twice yearly (10)                      | 11 Venue of 10 (5,4)                |
| 18 Organ of hearing (3)                   | 12 One at a time (6)                |
| 19 Hiding (10)                            | 15 Confirmed (8)                    |
| 24 We French have sense (4)               | 16 Japanese robe (4)                |
| 25 Moulding shaped like an S (4)          | 18 Flip or nog (3)                  |
| 26 Wildebeest (3)                         | 28 Burden (4)                       |
| 27 Knot for shortening (10)               | 20 Block (4)                        |
|   | 22 Star with varying brightness (4) |
|   | 23 Back in the past (3)             |

**MARCHAM PLAYERS**  
"WITH GREAT PLEASURE"

In the past few years the Marcham Players have organised several very successful evenings under the above banner. For those who have yet to experience it, the evening is based on the Radio 4 programme in which famous people choose pieces of prose and poetry that have meant something to them during their lives, and equally famous "voices" then read the selections.



We can't boast any famous people and rather than one person choosing, we have had "themes" - including "Poetry", "Childrens' books", and "Christmas" - which have resulted in very entertaining readings, with several people taking turns. We would like to organise one or two more "WGP Evenings" this year and would welcome suggestions for new themes; or perhaps someone would prefer to revert to the original format and choose all the readings. Marcham Players can provide readers, venue, and refreshments - all we need is something to read! If you have any ideas, please ring Joey Maclean on 01865 391242.

Any enquiries regarding membership of the Marcham Players can be answered by phoning either Joey Maclean on 01865 391262 or Dave Hutchinson on 01865 391964

www.marchamplayers.co.uk

**MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB**

In preparation for the 2011 OCA Season, Nets are being held at Radley College Sports Hall on each Friday evening (7-9pm) from 4th March until near the first fixture on 30th April. All levels are welcome. Please contact Trevor Hill (391321) for details of Nets and other information relating to the Club.



CSB

**WANTED: CRICKET TEA PROVIDER**

The cricket club are looking for an individual(s) or business to provide cricket teas to 24 players on a Saturday from 30 April to 10 September. Terms negotiable.

Interested parties, and for more information, please contact the secretary Trevor Hill on 01865 391321 by Sunday 20 March.

**ED VAIZEY WRITES...**

Over recent weeks I have received a great many emails on two issues in particular: fish and forests. I received a huge amount of correspondence (more than on any other issue since I have been an MP) about our forests - I must have had close to 400 e-mails. The Forestry Commission maintains a fifth of England's woodlands and the Government was looking at how they could best be managed. I love our forests; they are beautiful and lush and a part of British heritage. I would be against any proposals that would harm such an important piece of our country. However, reform of the public forestry estate has been under consideration for some time. The previous Labour Government detailed "alternatives to public ownership" and "new commercial opportunities" for our forests and also sold some forests. The coalition government proposed leasing forests with adequate protection both for access and biodiversity. Following the public outcry, the Government decided to halt its consultation. It has now appointed an independent panel of experts who will report back in the autumn. I hope those of you who wrote to me feel that your voice was heard and that the Government has done the right thing by listening and changing its policy.

The other issue that has exercised a lot of people is the future of our fish stocks. (Interestingly Wantage is supposed to be the place in England that is furthest from the sea in every direction.) There is currently a very popular Early Day Motion in Parliament about the damaging practice of discarding unwanted fish. At present, when fishermen trawl for fish, they often throw back up to half their catch because the fish are too small, too young or too unpopular a species to be sold. These discarded fish are mostly killed by being caught; they are beginning to pollute our seas which will harm the future of our fishing industry. It also is morally wrong, I believe, to kill animals that will not be eaten.

The Government is therefore looking at a number of ways to reform the fishing industry. There have been remarkable results from a pilot scheme which incentivises fishermen to design more selective nets and DEFRA is looking at new quota systems that will measure the amount caught, instead of the amount brought into dock.

Locally, I hope not too many people have been inconvenienced by the continuing works to the railway bridge at Milton Park. Network Rail did not do enough preliminary work, so the result is that the embankment is not strong enough for the new bridge, and has to be strengthened. This has added six months to the work, and the County Council are doing all they can to minimise traffic disruption. Also, you may have heard that I am considering asking the boundary commission to change the name of the constituency from "Wantage" to "Wantage and Didcot" to reflect the fact that Didcot is the largest town in the constituency. I have always referred to myself as the MP for Wantage and Didcot in any event. I would welcome your views.

**MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY**

5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise

4 Mar	<b>Didcot</b> , King Alfred Community Centre, OX11 7NU
18 Mar	<b>Faringdon</b> , Pump Rooms, SN7 7HL
25 Mar	<b>Grove</b> , Old Mill Hall, OX12 7LB
<b>Contact Ed Vaizey MP by</b>	
Post	The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
E-mail	vaizeye@parliament.uk
Web	www.vaizey.com
Tel	0207 219 6350

**SCHOOL NEWS**

**Maths Trip**

On the 27th January 2011, Robyn Swain, Lucy Sharrock, Joseph Mutch, Amber Chisholm and Avalon Halgreen went to Sunningwell School for a maths afternoon.

First we played some games while we were waiting. Next we got into groups with other schools and we had to think of things we had in common. Our activity was to make a lunchbox and fit a bottle of water, an apple, a sandwich and a packet of crisps into it. We had to make the lunchbox out of a net and we had to work out how much everything was going to be. Next we needed to decide how much we would sell the lunchbox for. Then we made a logo for the lunchbox. While we were making the lunchbox, we got called over to make a sandwich and collect the food to put in our lunchbox. Then we were finished and we went back to school. **WE HAD A VERY GOOD DAY!** See cover for photo)

**Anson Class**

This term in Anson Class we have been learning lots of things about France. We have looked at all the different ways of crossing the English Channel and we have made posters on Lyon, Paris, Colmar (twinned with Abingdon), Nice and Calais. We have been reading the Babar the Elephant stories, as these were written by a French author.

We also looked at French recipes, like Ratatouille, and Mr Pullen (Mai's dad who used to be a chef in France) came in and showed us how to cook some French biscuits (called Longues des Chats - Cats' Tongues!) which were delicious.

*Freya and Hannah*

**Marcham School PTA**

Marcham School PTA is holding a **TABLETOP SALE on Saturday 19th March 2011**, time 10:30-12:30 in Marcham School Hall, Morland Road. Bring your good quality clothes, toys, household items, DVDs, CDs etc and sell them! Only £5 per table\*! To book your table, email: marchamschoolpta@monkeynose.com. Buyer entry free!

*\*Tables must be booked and paid for in advance. Sellers must take away unsold items at the end of the table top sale. No furniture.*

**SARAH MUTCH**, Marcham School PTA

**Marcham Mothers Toddlers and Babies**

We meet every Tuesday from 10:00 am to 11:30am at the back of All Saints Church, Marcham.

For mums, dads, and grandparents, there is always a hot drink and a chance to chat to other grown-ups.

For toddlers, there are lots of fun toys, new friends to meet and play with, story time with drinks and biscuits, followed by a lovely singalong.

THEN there is activity time - don't worry, we provide aprons for the children if it's a messy activity. Just think of all the artwork you could have to display on your fridge OR give to adoring grandparents!

For babies, there are lovely, soft cushions to lie on and watch others or have a sleep, lots of soft toys, and stimulating, colourful toys too. There are even two "granny types" willing to entertain any child there, even crying babes. They are both experts in cuddling!

Please come and join us any time you can. On your first visit you don't pay anything and after then it is £2 per family per week.

We won't be in church on Tuesday 15th March because we will be in the SSSC Club (see below) - please come and join us: we need your support!

**Marcham Mothers and Toddlers  
COFFEE and CAKE MORNING**

on Tuesday 15 March, 10:00 - 11:30 am

at Marcham Scouts, Sports and Social Club (Cricket Field)

Everyone - all ages - are welcome. Please come for a chat.

All money raised will go to support Marcham Community Group

**MSSSC: Marcham Sports, Scouts & Social Club**

20.30 Friday 18 March, Quiz night

*We look forward to seeing you at the club*

For more info contact Geoff Dix, secretary on 391577 or geoff.dix@hotmail.com

March 2011

**INDOOR SEED SOWING**



At this time of year, as the buds on the trees and bushes are about to burst our minds turn to seed sowing for the coming season. In many places it's still too cold for direct sowing into the open ground, so why not try sowing seeds indoors, for planting out when things warm up a bit more. As long as the container you will be using has drainage channels or holes, it is usable, but do try not to use wooden containers as it is hard to clean off pests that may be lingering from the previous seasons. Plastic containers work the best in my opinion.

The planting medium to fill your chosen containers should either be a seed compost or a multi-purpose kind. Fill the container to a maximum of 2cm below the top of the container, and it is always best to water the compost thoroughly about 12 hrs prior to indoor seed sowing.

Fine seeds are not covered by compost when sown as they will root on the surface of moist compost. Larger seeds need covering with a layer of compost though. The rule of thumb is cover large seeds so they are twice their diameter below the soil surface. The same rule can be used for many spring bulbs too, but by no means all.

Most seeds will need, for germination purposes, to be kept in warm conditions, so a window sill that can be kept at a regular room temperature is adequate. But don't let them scorch or dry out in the direct sunlight. Never let the compost fluctuate between wet and dry, keep them evenly watered with a fine hand sprayer.

When the seeds are large enough, prick them out into trays with individual cells and put 1 seedling in each cell. Again use multi-purpose compost for this stage. After pricking out the seedling should be kept out of direct sunlight and only water if needed.

When the transplanted seedlings are growing after they have recovered from the trauma are being pricked out, they will need to be hardened off before you can move them to the outside. To achieve this successfully, give them some ventilation now and then in an unheated room, before placing the trays outside against a sheltered wall on warmer days and brought in if the nights are cold. After about 16 days of being introduced to this new climate, the seedlings should be ready for planting out in the garden. But take care and keep an eye on the weather forecast for late frosts.

Spring has sprung, so get opening those seed packets and get gardening again.

*Happy Gardening, STUART MABBUTT*

**ABINGDON LITTLE ANGELS**

February has been another busy and productive month here at Little Angels. We have been busy buying new equipment and creating a new layout for our baby room, with a new physical area along with a cosy corner for the babies to sit in and read books, take time out and relax. The ceiling has been given a lift with new mobiles for the babies to look at when they are lying down and playing, we are very pleased with the finished room and the babies seem to enjoy being there.



The topic for February has been cooking and our Little Angels have been busy cooking a variety of food every day, they had fun making bread and kneading the dough, cheese straws, bread sticks, jam tarts etc. The sausage rolls were also a success although they were in a variety of shapes and sizes after the children had finished making them but the Little angels size and style sausage rolls still tasted great. A fun month for all.

We have also been purchasing toys and equipment for the older children, they have had great fun with a new bike and trailer riding it round and round the garden and in March we are looking forward to looking at Animals of the world.

For more information about the Angels Out of School Club please contact Helen or Kaye on 07516 474287 or at info@abingdonlittleangels.co.uk.

**Do You Need a Babysitter?**

Year 11 'Our Ladies' Student available for Babysitting- 5 mile radius of Tubney. References can be provided.



**Please phone 01865 390777.**



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

**WOOTTON AND BOARS HILL CRICKET CLUB SEEKS SUPPORT**

Required for 2011 season and beyond:

- Groundsman
- Umpire

These are paid positions and are negotiable depending on qualifications and experience.  
WBHCC Chairman: Mike Robinson at: [wbhcc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wbhcc@hotmail.co.uk)



**DEMENTIA INFORMATION LINE AND WEBSITE**

Oxfordshire now has it's own Dementia Information Service. The telephone service is 01993 700061 and is available from 9 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday (answerphone at other times). The website is [www.dementiaweboxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.dementiaweboxfordshire.org.uk)

**WWF's Earth Hour**  
**Switch off for one hour at 20.30 on 26 March 2011**  
Every person and every switch off will help to send a powerful message to the government that we want urgent action to tackle climate change and safeguard the natural world.  
**One Hour. One World. Our Future**  
<http://earthhour.wwf.org.uk>

**ABINGDON AIR & COUNTRY SHOW**  
Sun 8th May, from 10am  
Abingdon Airfield / Dalton Barracks

Flying Displays, Vintage Vehicles, Rick Chase live music, Kids Amusements, Crafts and much more.  
Gate Admission; Adult £13, OAP £8, Child 5-15 £6, under 5s Free..  
Advance tickets available, enquire via the website: [www.abingdonfayre.com](http://www.abingdonfayre.com)



**Wantage Choral Society**  
Sat 19th March 7.30pm at Wantage Civic Hall  
Karl Jenkins, The Armed Man, A Mass for Peace and other choral & orchestral music  
Tickets £12 (£10 in advance) from Anne Smithson, 01865 391372

**Abingdon European Society**  
*The Bauhaus: German art, architecture & design in the first half of the 20th century*  
Ann Stieglitz  
Saturday 19 March 7.15 for 7.30 p.m  
St. Helen's Church Centre, St. Helen's Court, Abingdon  
AES Members at the door & Students £5 Visitors £6.  
Includes refreshments  
Contact: Adrienne Compton-James 01235 522 193

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**SATURDAY MARCH 5th 2011**  
**9.45 - 1 p.m.** (registration 9.15 - 9.45 a.m.)  
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# All Saints' and St. Luke's Parish Page

## Dear Friends,

Recent events in Egypt underline how unpredictable and uncertain life can be, whether on a large international scale or on the smaller personal scale. Such uncertainties in life can have far reaching consequences for those concerned. Closer to home are the anxieties about Government fiscal policies and large scale job losses, particularly in the public sector. Some of you reading this will no doubt be only too aware of such anxieties and the possible implications.

Christ was always a realist in his teaching. He warned his followers about the uncertainty of life here on earth, that it was never an 'easy ride', and that care was needed at every twist and turn of the proverbial road.

Despite life's unpredictable nature, Jesus offers the security of faith, of the possibility of knowing that God is utterly reliable and trustworthy, and that we can, as human beings, be assured of God's care and provision, even for the basic necessities of everyday living like food and clothes.

However, Jesus also teaches that we must be ready to put first things first. No selfish personal greed or gain here – we are to seek first God's kingdom and understand what he requires of us – then things begin to slip into place. Human beings were never meant to be independent beings on the sea of life; *interdependent* perhaps, with the rest of life; but one step further – having a conscious dependence on our Creator, upon God our provider, who alone orders the comings and goings of people and nations.

Faith is no easy option! Faith requires guts and courage, a clear mind and a steady heart. Jesus' first followers were men, tough men, hard working men, 'rough-around-the-edges' men - with a love for life! Women and children came too. All are welcome on this path of faith. God calls us to work it out together - with him. Welcome to Lent and Life!

**With my warmest best wishes,**

**Revd Richard Zair**

## Prayer for the Month:

Dear God,  
In the changes and uncertainties of life, please help me to trust You. Please strengthen my faith, and help me to put my hand in Yours for the journey ahead. Help me to know Jesus as my constant friend and companion, as well as my Saviour and Lord. In His name. Amen.

## March calendar:

### Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March – Special Men's Breakfast

This month we will be joining with Kingston Bagpuize for a joint Men's Breakfast at Carswell Golf Club House (8.30 am) – the speaker will be Stephen Sizer, talking on the Middle East. For further information or to arrange a lift please contact James Allan on 391373. (If possible, please confirm attendance by 1 March.)

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March – Ash Wednesday Communion at 7.30 pm.** This service will be held at St. Mary's, Shippon and will be a joint service between our two parishes. All welcome.

**Lent courses:** Various lent courses are being run – both at All Saints' and in the Abingdon churches. Lent is an important time of year in the churches calendar, for many it is a time of reflection and "taking stock". If you are interested in using this time to explore your own faith, please contact Richard for further details.

## Parish People:

On 28 January, the funerals of June Amey and Cecilia Dyer took place at All Saints'. We extend our sympathy to their family and friends.

## Regular services:

**Sundays at All Saints':** 10am and 6pm  
(8am first Sunday)

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

**Sundays at St. Luke's:** 10.30 am on the first Sunday of  
each month.

## Contacts:

Rev. Richard Zair 391319

Jill Rowe *Youth and Children's Minister* 390885

Chris Nutman *Churchwarden* 01235 521698

Deborah Flint *Churchwarden* 391056

Janey Cumber *Administrator* 391327

Jenny Warwick *PCC Secretary* 392076

# **Marcham Baptist Church**

(Packhorse Lane)

## **March 2011**

### **Sunday Morning Worship at 10.30 am**

(Communion every first Sunday)



**Our speakers for March include:**

**Mar 6<sup>th</sup> Mr. Bob Hazell of Wantage Baptist Church**

**Mar 13<sup>th</sup> People's Praise**

**Mar 20<sup>th</sup> Mr. Paul Hazell of Wantage Baptist Church**

**Mar 27<sup>th</sup> Mr. Paul Revell of Cholsey Baptist Church**

### **Everyone welcome**

In the past a king who wanted to mark or secure a document with his seal used his signet ring. He pressed it into softened wax and allowed it to harden into an unbroken seal that bore the mark of his ring. The signet ring represented the honour, authority, and personal guarantee of the king, so it was highly valued.

Over the centuries people have misused the Bible to do terrible things – to defend bloody crusades and tragic inquisitions; to support slavery, apartheid, and segregation; to persecute Jews and gay people; to support Hitler's Third Reich and the Holocaust; to oppose medical science; to execute women as witches; and to support the Ku Klux Klan. Shakespeare said it this way: "*Even the devil can cite Scripture for his own purpose.*"

The Bible is God's Word to mankind and has been marked by His signet ring, and carries His guarantee of its authority and truth. Let's not mess with it!

We must align ourselves with the Bible and never try to align the Bible to ourselves.

**Bory Pilgrim**

For further information on church activities:

Contact Mr R Barrett 01865 391356  
Mr W Dyer 01235 814986

Marcham Baptist is affiliated to the Baptist Union of Great Britain