

October 2011 Vol: 33 No: 10

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



Little Angels see page 15
Kaye Merriman ▶

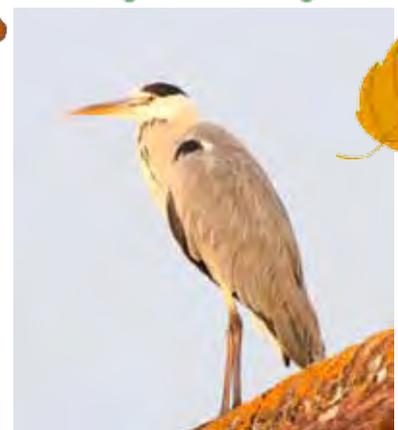
◀ Sports Day



▲ Born'n'Bred at Marcham Ex-Servicemen's Club see page 5



Marcham Pre-School see page 15
◀ Graduation Day ▶



▲ A Heron in Anson Close see page 5



DIARY FOR OCTOBER



1 Sat	Marcham Masks, Manor Farm	9
5 Wed	Have Your Say, Duffield Place, 17.00-19.00	11
7 Fri	MP's Surgery, Faringdon, 17.30-19.00	7
7 Fri	MSSSC AGM, 20.30	7
9 Sun	Abbey Strings, Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon, 15.00	5
11 Tue	Marcham Society, All Saints' Church, 19.45	11
12 Wed	Allotment Rent Collection, Duffield Place, 18.30-19.30	5
12 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3
13 Thur	Midweek walk, The Woodman Inn, Fernham, 12.30/13.30	11
14 Fri	Quiz Night, MSSSC, 20.30	7
15 Sat	Deadline for comments for CLP	13
15 Sat	Wantage and Grove Lions Craft Fayre, 10.00-16.00	21

20 Thur	Deadline for Nov issue of MADNews, 17.00	
20 Thur	Marcham WI, Denman College, 19.30	11
21 Fri	Have Your Say, Wootton Community Centre, 19.00-20.00	11
21 Fri	MP's Surgery, Wantage, 17.30-19.00	7
23 Sun	Big Pink Plunge, Brackley Airfield	21
28 Fri	With Great Pleasure, Manor Farm, 19.30	7
29 Sat	BBOWT Autumn Fair, 09.30-14.30	21
29 Sat	Marcham Sponsored Walk, 14.00	7
November		
14 Mon	RDA Christmas Fair, Fallowfields, 11.00-16.00	3
19 Sat	Tubney Church Bazaar, 14.00	21
26-27	Sobell Christmas Fair, Radley College	21

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

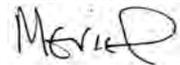
Dear Readers

Clocks going back and a Halloween Howl at Millets ... must be autumn!

With the lovely colours all around, there is nothing better than getting wrapped up and out kicking leaves around... well maybe crumpets by the fire and Doctor Who on the telly!

I am looking forward to all your comments on the developer's ideas for the Anson Field so get your fingers on keyboards or pens to notepaper!

Until next time



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ADVERTISING

Contact the Editor

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DEADLINES

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

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October 2011

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Taylor Wimpey – Consultation Events

At the time of writing the consultation events advertised in last month's MAD News are still to take place. Your parish councillors will be attending these, to find out as much information as possible, in order to best represent the electorate as the issues relating to the proposed new community facilities and housing unfold. It was noted that the advertisement referred to development on part or all of the field. From early explanations by the Anson Trust it was understood that they were proposing housing on only part of the field. The Parish Council has sent a letter to the Anson Trust seeking clarification.

Vale of White Horse District Council – Register of Electors

The District Council is currently compiling the new register of electors for the area. Please complete the white form which you should have recently received via Royal Mail or register on line and ensure that the District Council is aware of who occupies your property. Otherwise you will lose your chance to vote.

Trick or Treat - 31st October

It is approaching that time of year when children can be tempted into going out trick or treating. Normally it is a harmless pastime for children, but it can also be both frightening and intimidating. Much distress is caused by unexpected knocks on the door or loud noises. Some residents may welcome treat or treating, others do not. If your children do go out, please encourage them to call only on those whom they know and to respect the wishes of anyone who does not wish to participate.

If you do get an unexpected caller, make sure the chain or door bar is on before you open the door. Do not let anyone in your house unless you are happy with their identity. If you need to talk to the police call 0845 8 505 505 or dial 999 in an emergency.

Grants

The Parish Council considers any requests for grants at its November meeting. Therefore, if there is any worthy and needy organisation where Marcham residents benefit which is considering applying to the Parish Council for a grant, then please write to the Clerk before the end of October stating the purpose of the grant and supplying a copy of your organisation's accounts.

Vale of White Horse District Council – website

The Vale of the White Horse District Council has a new look. On the very top line of the website you can enter your postcode and be presented with information relevant to the area, such as the date of waste and recycling collections, whether it is the green or grey bin day, and information about local planning and the environment. If you are searching specifically for planning applications, then from the home page, choose Planning, then **View Recent Applications in the area.**

Application recently considered by the Parish Council: 11/01718/LBC for the installation

of 30Kw photovoltaic panels at Denman College.

Oxfordshire County Council – Draft Minerals and Waste Consultation

The County Council is currently consulting on its draft minerals and waste policy. Comments are invited up until 31st October, 2011. The documents can be found on the County Council's website. www.oxfordshire.gov.uk on the home page on the left hand side under Respond to a consultation.

Allotments

There have been reports of theft of produce from the Cow Lane allotments. Would allotment tenants please be vigilant and report suspicious activity to the clerk and to the Police. Also on the allotments rats have been sighted. The Parish Council is planning to try and reduce the population by putting down boxes. Please do not touch any boxes and should you take children to the allotment then please be aware.

Allotment rent collection will take place this month. Please see advertisement elsewhere.

Cemetery – Dog faeces

The Council has had reports of dog faeces on the path in the Cemetery and left on the path between the Church and Cemetery. Would residents please note that the Cemetery is not a short cut through to the Arboretum area, and would you please keep to the public footpaths around the outside. Should your dog foul the area, then please clean up after it. The dog waste bin can be found just beyond the cemetery at the junction of all 3 public paths.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday 12 October 2011 at 7.30pm. in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place. This will be the first meeting of the new Council

Clerk to the Council: Mrs. L. Martin,
90 Howard Cornish Rd, 01865 391833
clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk
www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

LOST KEYS

Have you found a bunch of key which were lost 20th August between Fettiplace Road and Sheepstead Road? Please phone 07840 805022

Babysitter available in Marcham and surrounding area
Feel free to ring Cathy to find out more on 07985 681564.

FOR SALE

2 double, proper Futons with elephant grey covers. Very good condition. £50 each or £80 for the two. phone 391200

**Riding for the Disabled
RDA ABINGDON GROUP
CHRISTMAS FAIR
Fallowfields Country House Hotel,
Southmoor OX13 5BH
Monday 14th November 2011
11am – 4pm
Adults: £3.00**

Dear Editor

Polite Request to all able-bodied car owners and their visitors

I am writing to ask all able bodied car owners to think twice before parking their car, or visitors' cars partly or completely on the pavement outside their house. I can understand the reasons why. i.e. no space on your drive for visitors to park. Parking on the pavement makes it easier for other road users to pass. However, please give a thought to pavement users. Mums with buggies, small children on trikes, children walking to school, walkers, the elderly or disabled using wheelchairs and other walking aids. Your parking on the pavement makes it difficult for them to pass, and so as not to damage your car, forces them to walk in the road. So please, if it is not safe to park in the road directly outside your house park a little way away safely and enjoy the health benefits of a short walk.

A NOT SO ABLE-BODIED VILLAGER

Dear Editor

At the 2011 RAF Benson Families Day on August 25th, a cheque for £7,000 was presented to members of the Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance trust to whom we support and are based at Benson, by members of the Air & Country Show committee. Included in this total were donations made from the Abingdon MG Car Works Centre rally entrants, Nationwide, a small amount of participants, & Enterprise which were generated for the show which took place this year on May 8th.

The total donation given to the Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust since 2007 now stands at £22,500.

Our previous charity, The Helen & Douglas House in Oxford received a further £14,000 from shows held in 2001 -2006.

The donation is decided after all the essential bills have been paid (which are high!), with the remainder split, with a large proportion held back in the show accounts so to kick start the following years show, with the rest donated to the chosen charity. The Organising Committee would like to thank everyone for their support in 2011 and look forward to welcoming them to the 13th Annual Abingdon Air & Country Show on May 6th 2012

COLIN SMITH

**13th Abingdon Air & Country Show
6th May 2012 www.abingdonfayre.com**

Dear Editor

I thought you might be interested in the attached photograph of a heron on a roof in Anson Close. [See cover]

I am a bird watcher and take the occasional bird picture although not often from our house. We also regularly feed birds throughout the year and sometimes this brings in something unusual.

MIKE YOUNGMAN, Anson Close

VACANCY FOR DIRECTORS OF THE ANSON TRUST PARISH COUNCIL NOMINEES

The Articles and Memorandum governing the Anson Trust provide for the Parish Council to nominate up to two Trustees to serve on the Anson Trust as Directors. The nominees serve for a three year term. The Council is inviting expressions of interest from anyone who wishes to be considered for nomination. Candidates should have an "open mind" about the Trust's work and be prepared to devote time attending meetings during what is currently a very active time for the Trust in developing its future strategy and plans for the charitable operations of the Trust. The existing Parish Council nominees are Colin Bough and Hugh Logan. Hugh is moving away from the area.

So, if you believe you have an expertise e.g. legal, finance, management, social etc. that can benefit the Trust, or generally interested in supporting the work of the Trust, and would like to be considered please contact the Parish Clerk - Mrs. L. Martin 90 Howard Cornish Rd, Tel: 01865 391833.

FOR SALE

2 x BRITAX CHILD CAR SEATS

Suitable from approximately 9mths (9kgs/20lbs) to 4yrs (18kgs/40lbs).

Both in great condition, involved in no accidents.

Britax First Class - Black/grey

Britax Eclipse si - Navy

£40.00 each

BABYSENSE II Breathing Monitor

Double mat, baby breathing alarm.

Excellent condition

£40.00

Marcham 01865 391747

Gardener Required

Light gardening

- maintenance of flower/shrub borders - required for 3 hours weekly (mornings) by retired lady finding bending difficult.

Contact: 01865 391-689

Could your village group make use of a small grant?

The Harding Bequest is a small charitable trust which for some years has made grants to a variety of community causes in the parish.

Any village group may apply to the Bequest for a grant.

If you are involved in a village organisation that may benefit from a small grant you are invited to contact Jenny Warwick (392 076), Secretary to the Harding Bequest, for an application form.

Allotment Rent Collection

The Clerk will be in attendance from 6.30 - 7.30 p.m.

On Wednesday 12th October in the residents' lounge at Duffield Place for the purpose of collecting allotment rents.

Would allotment holders please remember to bring their rent card with them.

MARCHAM EX-SERVICEMEN'S CLUB

On Saturday 17th September at the Marcham and District Ex-Servicemen's Club, members and guests from young to old with a variety of music tastes were entertained by local group BORN 'N' BRED giving a first class performance!

The Club thanks everybody involved for organizing a very enjoyable and successful evening.

BRIAN HARROW



Abbey Strings

Director: Mariette Richter

Oboe soloist: Carolyn King

Cimarosa: Oboe Concerto

Corelli: Concerto Grosso No 2

Grieg: Holberg Suite

3pm Sunday 9 October 2011

Unicorn Theatre, Abbey Buildings, Abingdon

Tickets on sale at 'Mostly Books' in

Stert Street and at the door:

£10, usual concessions £7,

accompanied children free

Bottles and Boxes

Thanks to the generosity of the NHS pharmaceutical dept, we have a large number of 250ml screw top bottles (empty!) which would be handy for your home-made cordials or liqueurs. There are also some sturdy white cardboard boxes with integral handles (13cm x 19 x 16.5) which, when decorated, would be ideal for packing Christmas gifts.

We shall recycle them in due course, but alas, there will be more. Contact 391398.

JEAN & DONALD CREASY



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

Please remember there is a sports fixture almost every Saturday afternoon & you are welcome to join us after the game for a drink.

We are open every Friday night from 8pm, Families welcome
 Note the last Friday in the month is always a real ale, adults only night.

AGM

Friday 7th Oct, 8.30 for 8.45 start

It won't have escaped anyone's notice that developments are gathering pace. These proposals directly affect our club and our members. With this in mind we strongly urge members attend the AGM. It will be in the pavilion

Quiz Night

Friday 14th Oct 8.30 start.

Back by popular demand, there will be a prize for the winning team, we will also be holding a Meat Draw

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

We look forward to seeing you at the club

MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY

5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise

Oct 7th	Faringdon , Pump Rooms, SN7 7HL
Oct 21st	Wantage , Civic Hall, OX12 9BX
Nov 11th	Didcot , King Alfred Drive Community Centre, OX11 7NU
Nov 18th	Wallingford , Town Hall, OX10 0AD
Dec 9th	Wantage , Civic Hall, OX12 9BX
Contact Ed Vaizey MP by	
Post	The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
E-mail	ed.vaizey.mp@parliament.uk
Web	www.vaizey.com
Tel	0207 219 6350

COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Back in May, I took part in the 3 Peaks Challenge, which is to climb Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon within 24 hours including the travelling time between the mountains.

Despite a blizzard at the top of Ben Nevis, getting slightly lost on Scafell Pike in the dark and being within a few inches of being blown off Snowdon, our ten-man team completed the challenge in 22.5 hours and raised £10800 (+ gift aid of over £1000) for Helen and Douglas House in Oxford. The generosity of local people has been wonderful and one Marcham resident was especially generous. I thank everyone who gave so generously.

Finally, I have managed a week away this year and went to France on an activity week with the family. For two days we descended the Ardeches Gorge in kayaks.....the sides of the gorge are up to 1000 feet high in places and it is an incredible place to visit. We beached the kayaks at the finish point and boarded a bus back to our camp...! The ride back was equally dramatic as along the road that follows the edge of the gorge for over 30 miles has not one single piece of safety barrier despite a 1000 foot drop...!

Health and Safety is not the same in France....despite being enthusiastic members of the European Union, the French only apply the rules they want to...!

We got back unscathed and enjoyed the trip, but there's no place like home!

COUNCILLOR IAIN BROWN OCC

Tel: 01235 751210 Email: iain.brown@oxfordshire.gov.uk
 Janus, Westcot Lane, Sparsholt, Wantage, Oxon OX12 9PZ.

October 2011

MARCHAM PLAYERS

For many years Joey Maclean has been both a stalwart member of The Players and most importantly a hard working, performer of miracles, Honorary Secretary. Her mouth watering catering provision has graced many of our events



and she also ran the many theatre trips we have enjoyed over a long period of time. Sadly, Joey is standing down from this role with immediate effect in order to be able to give more time to her other commitments to the village. We shall all miss her contribution to The Players but we have persuaded her to stay on as a Committee Member. At our last Committee Meeting, in addition to learning of the above news, we also were able to welcome Cheryl Sewell as Joey's successor. We are very grateful to have achieved such a seamless transition and to be able to find a person who is well versed in the traditions and history of The Players. It is anticipated that we shall be announcing one or two more dates for forthcoming events once they have been confirmed at our next Committee Meeting so watch this space next month!

There will be a "With Great Pleasure" evening in the Board Room at Manor Farm on Friday 28 October - 7.30pm start with a Ghosts theme running through the selected readings - come and join us - all are welcome.

Any enquiries regarding membership etc should now be made to either Dave Hutchinson on 01865 391964 or Cheryl Sewell on 01865 391200.

www.marchamplayers.co.uk

MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

The OCA 2011 Season ended in September.

Now "winter" matters, such as ground treatment and preparation for next year become important aspects of Club activity.

For information concerning playing or umpiring for Marcham Cricket Club in 2012 please contact Trevor Hill on 391321.



CSB

SPONSORED WALK
2PM START SATURDAY 29TH OCTOBER

If you love where you live
 Get involved by joining in a Sponsored Walk
 Around the Marcham countryside.

In aid of leisure facilities for Marcham.
 There will be a 2 hour walk (approx) ending with refreshments on the village green. Sponsorship forms will be available from Marcham Post Office and Manor Farm Shop from 1st October. Entry fee is £5 and all the sponsorship money you can raise!

Contact Barbara Micklem for more details 01865 390732.



Oxfordshire Artweeks will be celebrating its 30th Anniversary in May 2012. If any artists or craftspeople in your parish would like to take part, we are now taking exhibition entries for 2012 - with the closing dates being 2nd December 2011 for paper entries and 31st December 2011 for on-line entries.

Each May, Oxfordshire artists and craftspeople open their studios to the public for the county's most important arts festival. Nearly 500 free exhibitions showing work by over 1000 local artists. For more details visit our website www.artweeks.org or contact the Artweeks office: Oxfordshire Artweeks, PO Box 559, Abingdon Oxon OX14 9EF
 Tel: 01865 865596 [The Artweeks office is open Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9.30am-2.30pm]



15th September
TOTALS TO DATE

Local Events
£2381

Donations
£3029

Membership
252

Bank Balance
£5611

5p Coins
1828

Does Marcham wish to lose its open green space?

By the time you read this you will have had the chance to go to the Taylor Wimpey consultation events on the Anson Trust's proposed developments. As the events take place shortly after the MADNews deadline we cannot comment directly on the proposals and we do not know at the time of writing what timescale Taylor Wimpey have in mind. Their door-to-door flyer briefly mentions building houses on part or all of the field and recreation (football and cricket) facilities.

Anson Trust sees no option other than to sell off part (or all) of the field and use the capital to buy land, build new recreation facilities and provide an endowment to cover future costs. This plan would have a dramatic impact on the character of the village and its infrastructure.

MCG, from the start, has been concerned about the Anson Trust plans. MCG is committed to basing any formal proposals for new facilities on the needs of the community and on a full consultation throughout the village. There is now a mechanism for doing this through the recently launched Community Led Plan (see p.13). Please play your part in the CLP process.

There are other options

MCG continues to believe there are other practical alternatives to that proposed by the Anson Trust, and that the local community should have a real and informed choice. The Anson Trust solution may provide leisure facilities, but these would be on the edge of the village and we would lose most, or all, of the green space in the middle of the village. We can keep the green space and provide new leisure facilities if we rise to the challenge to raise the funding as a community. Whatever we do, it should be a community decision as to what best meets community needs and it needs commitment.

If you agree that there are other ways to tackle this issue, please show your support by joining Marcham Community Group now — we plan to make a difference.

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

5p COINS

MCG is very grateful to everyone who has contributed 5p coins, which continue to roll in.

Please keep collecting them and hand them in to Denise Asher (24 Fettiplace Road).

Every little helps!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Don't forget Marcham Masks: Sat. 1st October!

Sat 29 October Sponsored Walk

Thurs 22 Dec CAROLS around the village

Late January BURNS NIGHT

Early February CHILDREN'S CANDLEMAS PROCESSION

Mid-April GARAGE & GARDEN SALE

MONDAY 4 JUNE MARCHAM JUBILEE GAMES

THERE ARE OTHER OPTIONS!



Marcham WI October 2011

Our September Open Meeting was very well attended by visitors and members, who all enjoyed the well known author, Julia Summers talking about Wartime Evacuees. Appropriately, she was thanked by an actual evacuee. Afterwards, wine and cheese were served.

NEXT MEETING

7.30 pm Thursday 20 October 2011
Just a Needle and Thread

Dr Susan K Williams

Royal School of Needlework

Bring a pretty pincushion or thimble
to make an attractive display

Some future events in the County

- 6 & 8 Oct Rambling in the Chilterns
- 7 Oct Textile Exhibition - Horton-cum-Studley
- 11 Nov Flower Demo with lunch, Yarnton Village Hall

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

Visitors are always welcome - Why not come and see?

**YOUR LOCAL W.I. BROADENING HORIZONS -
EMPOWERING WOMEN ... OPEN TO ALL**

MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK

Thursday October 13th.

For this month's walk we will meet at The Woodman Inn in Fernham, just south of Faringdon (Map Ref: SU292919) at 12.30 for lunch and 1.30 for the walk of about 4 miles. This is an exploration of some hidden paths in gentle hill country with wide ranging views. Members free, non-members £1. Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and details.



Marcham Society Meeting held on September 13th 2011

Our guest speaker was Ellen Lee from the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre [TVERC] which is based at Eynsham. Her group records information all all flora & fauna of Berkshire & Oxfordshire. Ellen's special interest is native crayfish which have been a protected species since 1981.

Crayfish are active mostly at dawn and dusk; they hide in D-shaped burrows in stream banks, under stones or among tree roots. They can live for up to nine years and moult once a year in early autumn. Having crawled from their protective shell, they are soft-bodied for a few days and vulnerable. They breed in October/November, the female retaining approximately 50 eggs attached to her body until the following April when the young are dispersed. Predators are otters, mink and herons, with an especially high mortality rate for juveniles.

Collecting native or white-clawed crayfish from chalk streams was a flourishing cottage industry from early times to its decline after the second world war; the meat from the tails being a prized delicacy. Reasons for their decline have not been fully established; it may have been caused by pollution. Currently the most devastating threat to the survival of our native species comes from the escape into the wild of American or Signal Crayfish which had been imported from Oregon for use in restaurants. Some were jettisoned into ponds and streams, being too small for table use. They are aggressive, able to walk from one water course to another (as long as their gills remain wet) but worst of all they carry a fungal disease which is fatal to our native species.

Until 2006 the Letcombe brook at Wantage was a good site for native crayfish and there was a small population near Marcham mill until fairly recently. Brooks in NW Oxfordshire also show a serious decline in numbers.

Special conservation sites are being identified away from the flood plain and having no connection with any other water course, with a view to re-introduction of the native species in the future. The most pressing conservation issue is how to control the American invader.

Ellen's talk revealed a fascinating and unexpected story of an animal very few of us have ever seen or even thought about.

Have your say...police surgery

- Wednesday 5th October 1700-1900
Duffield Place, Marcham
- Friday 21st October 1900-2000
Wootton Office
- Wednesday 2nd November 1400-1600
Duffield Place, Marcham
- Thursday 17th November 100-1200
Wootton Office

PCSO Carly Milward C6157

Abingdon Outer Neighbourhood Team
NAG7 Marcham, Wootton, Shippon and Boars Hill
Non-emergency number: 0845 8 505 505
www.thamesvalley.police.uk



VILLAGE CAFE
EVERY WEDNESDAY
MSSSC



If you are holding an event within
or near the MADNews area,
please contact the editor for more publicity!
01865 391725 or editor@madnews.co.uk



The
**Marcham
Society**

175 years of the GWR

David Castle

All Saints' Church Tuesday 11th October 2011, 7.45pm

Following meeting 8th November 2011
The Wilts & Berks Canal - *Martin Buckland*

Non-members £2

www.marchamsociety.org.uk

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

A Community Led Plan for Marcham

Please tell us what you think

What do you like or dislike about our village? Have you any ideas about what could be done to improve it? If so, we would very much like to hear from you over the next few weeks. We have created a short form for you to put down what you think, and you will find copies in various locations round the village such as the Post Office and the Church. There will also be boxes in the same places for you to return your completed form.

Your views at this stage will be very important in helping to draw up the main questionnaire which will be distributed to every household in Marcham. If we know what you care about then we can make sure that everyone in the village gets a chance to give their opinions about those issues when they complete the final questionnaire.

If you have already attended one of the two public meetings on 7th or 12th July and you filled in post-it notes with your likes, dislikes and ideas for improvements at one of those meetings then there is no need to fill in a form as well – we have already included your comments and ideas.

We are hoping to get all the completed forms back by 15 October 2011. Please collect a copy from wherever you see one, fill it in and return it as soon as you can.

The Steering Group

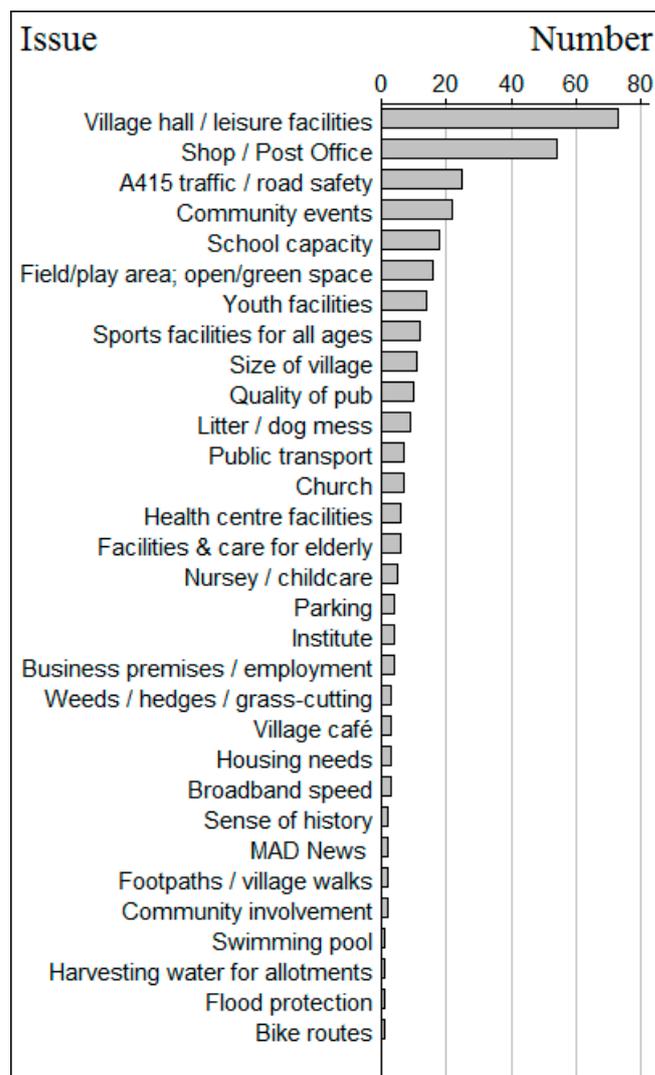
A completely independent Steering Group has been set up to take the project to completion. Its only job is to make sure that all the important issues in Marcham are included and that the views of the whole community are reflected in the final Plan.

The Steering Group has now met three times and we expect to continue meeting on the first Wednesday of each month until the Plan is completed.

Membership of the Steering Group is open to anyone in Marcham. It is not too late to join, especially if you can offer time and skills to help complete the project. If you are interested, please contact either of the people shown at the bottom of this page.

Results from 7th and 12th July

Over a hundred people came to our initial meetings on 7th and 12th July here in the village. Here are the issues that people told us they cared about:



The chart shows the number of people who named each issue as something they liked, disliked or had an idea for how it could be improved.

For more information
or to volunteer to help,
please contact:

Jim Asher (tel 01865 391727) or
David Walton (tel: 01865 391239)

MARCHAM BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

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

For mums, dads, grandparents and carers, 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, storytime 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.

For babies, there are lovely, soft cushions to lie on, stimulating toys and 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 then after it is £2 per family per week. We look forward to seeing you!

MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

We ended last term with a 'graduation' ceremony for our leavers attended by parents and grandparents as well as the Foundation and Year 1 classes - this was a great end to a very busy year and we were all sad to say goodbye. The children were presented with a photo story of their time at pre-school as well as other reminders of the things they had done and achieved. The staff were delighted to be presented with a book made up of photographs and pictures drawn by all the leavers with comments about some of their favourite things! Lots of tissues were needed!!

Here are some of the things we have done over the year....

- Firework pictures, stars and rockets
- Birthday celebrations with REAL cake as well as pretend one in the sand, playdo, clay and stickle bricks!
- The children have learnt new skills involving, cutting, sticking, making collage pictures and learning how to keep hold of the end of the sellotape!
- We made monster face pizzas, and smoothies, birthday cakes and pancakes.....
- We made the Gruffalo and all the characters, with every child contributing - and re-enacted the story
- We've dug for treasure, made mud pies and maps, made a beach, a river and even our own puddles to jump in when it didn't rain for days!
- We explored Britain and our holiday hotspots, discussed what our houses look like and where we live as well as making observational drawings about the world around us
- We've had our Monday Mooch, Tuesday Trek and Wednesday Walk, exploring, examining and discovering bugs, plants and birds.
- The home corner has been a doctors, a school, a cafe (and a mess!) although we've all learnt how to tidy it up again!!!
- The children enjoyed being teachers so much that we had to design their own register so they could call out and mark off each child, so not only do many of them now recognise their own name but they can find the names of their friends too!
- The puppet theatre has made regular appearances and as the children took turns to put on a show they also enjoyed being in the audience.

As well as lots and lots of other things!! What better way to end such a fabulous and fun year than with a magic show and now our graduation. This has been wonderful group, not just in the children but in the support and encouragement we have received from the parents and grandparents. And we will miss you all!!

If you would like to join us, please contact us on 01865 392101, 07749 245313 or visit our NEW website www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com or marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk

MARION, NICKY AND KATHARINE
October 2011

LIVING WITHOUT FEAR

Nobody should have to live in fear of crime and there is a simple, safe and effective way you can help stop criminals ruining more lives by passing on information about crime anonymously to the Crimestoppers 24:7 hotline 0800 555 111 or at www.crimestoppers-uk.org.

Crimestoppers is a charity and not part of the police. When you call 0800 555 111:

- your call will not be traced and you won't be asked for your name or address
- you will always remain completely anonymous, so there is no risk to you
- if your information leads to an arrest and charge you may qualify for a cash reward of up to £1,000 which will be paid out anonymously, so at no point will your identity be revealed.

Crimestoppers really does work. More than 2100 local criminals have been arrested and charged in Thames Valley over the past 13 years. That means that 1 in 10 of the calls to Crimestoppers results in an arrest without one caller ever being identified.

So do you have any information about:

- metal theft?
- counterfeiting?
- drug dealers?
- burglary?
- knife crime?
- car crime and numberplate theft?
- robbery?

**Call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111
or go to www.crimestoppers-uk.org.
Help make your community safer today.**



ABINGDON LITTLE ANGELS

We have now started the new term at Little Angels. During the summer months we have been busy with lots of activities, including our Sports Day which was held at the end of August, great fun for all the children who participated and particularly the parents and staff race. The children enjoyed running races, spoon and bean bag, dressing up race and obstacle course, finishing with the baby race for those little walkers.

September we have been looking at our village and Abingdon, making models of the Abingdon market square, creating our own Tesco's supermarket for role play and walks around the village looking at the area in more detail.

The new term has also started for the after school club which is now based in the sports and social club between 3.30- 5.30, if you would like any more information please feel free to pop on and see us in operation on Wednesday or Thursday afternoons

This month has also been a real achievement for our administrator/co manager Kaye Merriman who has successfully completed and passed her Early Years Professional States (EYPS), Kaye is one of only approx 150 in the whole of Oxfordshire to achieve this and we are all very proud of her. It is stated that EYPS bring increased knowledge and create a better stimulating and educational support to the setting. We would like to congratulate Kaye on her high achievement and are proud to have a EYP at our setting

If you would like any further information about Abingdon Little Angels please feel free to call in or telephone us on 07516 474287 or at info@abingdonlittleangels.co.uk.



RESPONSE TO IAIN BROWN'S LETTER:

It is good to have the support of the village in our aim to provide education for the children of the Marcham catchment and appreciate Iain Brown's continued efforts to fight our corner. However, there were some aspects of his last letter which need correction. The intake number for the school is 20: it used to be 15 until 2 years ago, when the County Council were persuaded that there were many more children from the catchment area wanting to come to the school than provision had been made for. We managed to secure a higher number of allocated places because we were able to prove to County that there was a greater need, due to the evidence from the statements of intent received from prospective parents. In the light of that, we were delighted to have our new classroom in 2009. The number of pupils starting school in September was 22, not over 30, as was stated in Iain Brown's letter. This was, of course, still more than the number allocated to us by the County, and we continue to have evidence that more than 20 children from the Marcham catchment want to come to the school. Again we would urge you to let us know if you intend to send you children to our school. There is a form to fill in which you will find elsewhere in MADnews, which really helps us to plan for the future. As for the 2 new classrooms, we can only afford, at present, to respond to need, and are governed by external events and both local and national priorities. We await, with interest, to see the impact of these on our school but remain passionate about providing a excellent education for the children in our care.

V. HUTCHINSON

Headteacher – Marcham CE Primary School



The Rocket Man

I'm lonely. I'm scared. I'm worried.
I'm in space!
I went up in a rocket, it only took me 30 seconds.
My rocket crashed on the moon now it's in pieces.
I miss my family, my pets, normal food.
I need to fix my rocket and get back to earth.
Now I'm really, really scared. It's starting to get cold, my legs are numb and I can not feel them any more .
There is only one thing I like about space, the view of earth.
It makes me feel sad because I'm not down there with my family.

MY NAME IS ROCKET MAN

And I am still on the moon.

By Robyn Cotterell

The Black Hole

I was floating in space then right in front of me was a big swirling hole. I put my foot on the brakes. I was being dragged in to black hole. I quickly got out of my rocket and jumped out of the window but I had forgot to put my space suit on. I watched my rocket being sucked into the black hole then I realised I had no space suit on. I panicked and I started to suffocate. Before I knew it I started to shrivel up and that was the end of me.

By Curtis Stafford

COMMUNITY GOVERNOR

Marcham CE Primary School currently has a vacancy for a Community Governor. We are looking for someone who has the desire to make a difference to the lives of the children of Marcham School. This position is available to anyone aged 18 or over who lives or works in the Marcham, Frilford or Garford community and is enthusiastic and committed to the good governance and continued success of the school.

The main role of the governing body is to help raise the standards and performance of the school by supporting the work of the headteacher and the staff. Governors will support and, at the same time, challenge headteachers by gathering views, asking questions and deciding what is best for the school. Governors make important decisions on policies and strategies and have to stand by their decisions. The governing body is answerable to parents and the wider community. Governors are required to play an active part in the decision making process of the school, getting involved in real issues. The role of Governor is tremendously rewarding with the satisfaction of making a significant contribution to the promotion of high quality teaching, a love of learning and knowing that children will benefit from your efforts.

We are ideally looking for someone who has no parental responsibility for a child/children presently at the school, in order to broaden our outlook and effectiveness. There are no pre-requisite skills to becoming a governor; you do not even have to have previous experience or knowledge of the school. However, the ability to work as part of a team, a readiness to accept responsibility and the confidence to ask questions, listen and learn all form part of the role. There are a range of skills that members of the governing body may be able to bring with them from their experiences at home and in work such as financial planning and personnel issues, which will enhance the effectiveness of the governing body.

If you are interested in becoming a governor and have what it takes to make a difference, then getting involved and finding out more is easy:

- talk to someone who is a governor ;
- find out more by visiting the following websites
 - <http://www.direct.gov.uk/>
 - <http://www.governornet.co.uk/>
 - <http://www.sgoss.org.uk/home/individuals.htm>

Contact the Headteacher (Viv Hutchinson) or Chair of Governors (Sarah Leese) at school on 391448 and they will help you to take the next steps.



Marcham Primary School

If you have young children and would like to register an interest in your child attending Marcham School in the future, please fill in and return this form to school as soon as possible. This form is not an application to school and does not guarantee a place, but will allow us to plan the future of the school and help with our discussions with the Admissions Team at Oxfordshire County Council.

Name of Parent/Guardian

Address

Name of Child

Date of Birth

Male/Female

A Tropical Des. Res.

In 1954 when I was a Health Sister with the Colonial Nursing Service, I was transferred from Calabar, Nigeria to Victoria on the south coast of what was then the British Camaroons - now Camaroon. I was allocated a pretty-looking bungalow in the Botanical Gardens, facing the sea with a mango tree and pawpaw in the compound.

Soon after moving in I discovered that I wasn't alone. There were rats above my bedroom ceiling. 'Put a python up there' said a friend. 'So', said I, 'when it's eaten all the rats, it might come looking for me' Tiny cream-coloured geckos would crawl up the sitting room wall and occasionally drop off. Well, any company on a too quiet, lonely evening!

Working at my desk one day beneath the window I thought I heard a slight sound above the noise of my typing, but decided I was mistaken. When I stood up, a grey snake slithered from behind some books onto the floor and remained coiled and perfectly still for a few minutes before moving slowly (for a snake) across the polishes floor and out of the door. I was unable to get a grip on the slippery surface - which may have saved my life - I shall never know! I was awakened one morning by a mouse running along the edge of my bedstead between me and the mosquito net. My Steward dispatched it, I never saw any of its relatives. A huge black spider in the bathroom didn't stay long - we never got on. A stripy tail emerging from behind a chair disclosed a large iguana. Indignant at being disturbed it scuttled off into the compound.

During the rainy season, accompanying the drumming of the rain on the zinc roof of my bedroom and the sound of the sea, would be a chorus of frogs beneath my window.

When I returned from UK leave it was to a new bungalow in Bota, a little further inland, where I had fewer 'residents' but more neighbours. (The roof of my des. res. Had collapsed while I was away.) It was there that I met Tom - but that is another story!

DORIS DOWLING



Doris with some of the (13) trainee Community Nurses outside their office beside the River Limbe in the Botanical Gardens.



Have you got a snippet from your life you would like to share? Send it in to The Editor - either by email Editor@madnews.co.uk, drop it into the Post Office envelope by 20th of the month, or you can send it to 8 Orchard Way, Marcham, Abingdon OX13 6PP.

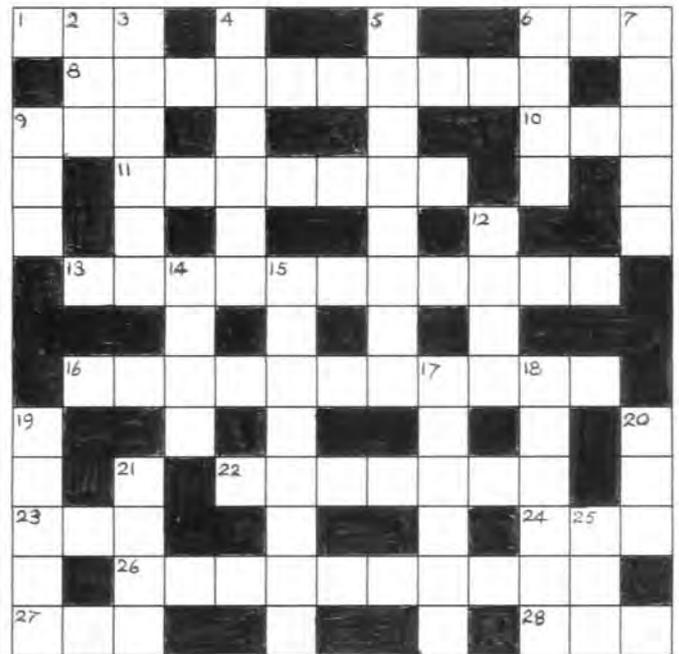
OCTOBER CROSSWORD BY ALISA

ACROSS

- 1 Trophy (3)
- 6 Taxi (4)
- 8 Amphibian (10)
- 9 Part of a journey (3)
- 10 Insect (3)
- 11 Month (7)
- 13 They grow on the Anson Field (6.5)
- 16 Where the Abingdon Pilgrims train (7.4)
- 22 Village for Morris Dancing (7)
- 23 Snake (3)
- 24 Cambridge river (3)
- 26 Faster than sound (10)
- 27 Spinner (3)
- 28 Lair (3)

DOWN

- 2 Exploit (3)
- 3 Sacred tower (6)
- 4 Do up (6)
- 5 Earnestly (8)
- 6 Shellfish (4)
- 7 Local vineyard (5)
- 9 Not high (3)
- 12 Italian evening (4)
- 14 Flower (4)
- 15 & 17 Car fuel (8.6)
- 17 See 15
- 15 Stale (6)
- 19 Satellite's course (5)
- 20 Chimney sweepers (3)
- 21 Insect (4)
- 25 Card (3)



SEND A COW

I wonder if the above phrase means anything to you? If I add the phrase TO HELP A POOR FAMILY IN RURAL AFRICA you probably start to understand what I'm talking about.

In 1991, Marcham Church congregation actually did send a cow to a poor family in Uganda. Neil Rowe milked the precious animal before it was loaded on to a plane. Many years after, Neil found out what had happened to it. Its milk had transformed the lives of the family who had received it, and later, its offspring, given to neighbouring families under the pass it on scheme, had helped more and more families in that area.

These days, the SEND A COW people source fine animals from within Africa, and operate in The Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya Lesotho, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia. The diversity and innovation practised mean that sometimes gifts will include Fruit Tree saplings; Medicinal shrubs; A fuel saving stove; Water storage facilities or all the teaching skills that are so necessary. In addition a family might receive a donkey, or chickens, or rabbits, or seeds and tools.

COULD YOU GIVE A DONATION TO THIS WORTHY CAUSE, helping poor people to help themselves? Christine Whild (391270) 62 North Street will gladly receive your money. Could you run a stall at a car boot sale, or organise a coffee morning? Could you save your small change, 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p in a pot? ANY AMOUNT is welcome and will be sent off immediately. OR WOULD YOU LIKE A SPEAKER TO COME AND TALK TO YOUR GROUP? Give me a ring. Next Month, I will explain how the PASS IT ON scheme works within SEND A COW.

CHRISTINE WHILD

LOCAL WOOD SHOP ON MILTON PARK

If you use wood for DIY projects then you may like to take a look at "The Wood Shop" on Milton Park. It's a simple name for a really interesting business. The Wood Shop is run by Oxford Wood Recycling, a social enterprise that hates waste. In the shop they sell used wood that they have collected from local businesses. Their aim is to ensure that no reusable wood within 30 miles is wasted. Step inside the shop and you'll find a real Aladdin's cave of construction timber, plywood, mouldings, reclaimed doors and gates and plenty of interesting pieces often with their own history as well as firewood and kindling. It's the perfect place to find timber for allotments, outbuildings, fencing and animal shelters and it's a great source of old scaffolding boards – ideal for making raised beds.

They also have a good supply of bone dry kindling and firewood produced from locally sourced and recovered wood. The people that find their way to the Wood Shop are as diverse as the range of timber inside, recent customers include bee keepers needing to restore their bee-hives, art students needing timber for a final year installation and someone wanting to build a log cabin in his garden. However, there is more to Oxford Wood Recycling than just the Wood Shop. As a social enterprise it offers work experience and employment to people who face severe barriers to employment. In 2010 it was awarded the title of European Social Firm of the Year for its work in this area. The team in the Wood Shop enjoy helping people find just what they need for the job in hand and they know about wood. Very often people buy a higher specification of wood than is actually needed, simply because that's all that is available on the shelves in the DIY store. The idea is that visitors to The Wood Shops can wander about and discover just the right piece or the team will find it for them, they'll even cut it to size and deliver if necessary.

Open 8:30 – 5pm Monday to Friday
9am till 1pm on Saturdays

The Wood Shop: 46a Milton Park OX14 4RU
www.oxfordwoodrecycling.org.uk

Does the thought of your next heating bill leave you cold?

With the recent announcements from the main energy providers of large increases in the price of energy, the cost of keep warm is rising. It is becoming harder for residents to keep their homes heated to the recommended temperatures of 21°C (70°F) in the living room and 18°C (65°F) in other occupied rooms. To help combat this, a free phone helpline has been set up to advise residents in Oxfordshire how to cut their energy bills.

The service is offered by the United Sustainable Energy Agency in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council, the five Oxfordshire District Councils and Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust.

If you are finding your energy bills unmanageable, you are not alone. Currently over 5 million people in the UK cannot afford to pay for the heat they need. Any resident in Oxfordshire who is struggling with their energy bills can call 0800 107 00 44 for free, impartial advice on:

- Cavity wall and loft insulation including the grants available
- Grants and loans to help with heating system replacements
- Government and energy company payments
- How to switch energy suppliers to get the best deal
- Advice on fuel debt
- How to be more energy efficient in the home

Some of these improvements can take a few months to install; don't wait until it gets cold to phone.

The helpline is available Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

October 2011

The Wood Shop

Second hand timber, scaffold boards, plywood and more

Why buy new? Lightly used and unwanted new timber and off cuts at HALF new price. Hardwoods too!

Visit us at: 46A Milton Park, Abingdon, OX14 4RU



www.oxfordwoodrecycling.org.uk

Tel: 01235 861228



ST LAWRENCE CHURCH – TUBNEY

Saturday 19 November Church Bazaar and Table Top Sale
Southmoor Village Hall - 2.00 pm.

Wide range of stalls. Table tops available - £4.00 each.

Contact:

Rosemary Kitto 01865 390 466 rosemarykitto@gmail.com

Wantage & Grove Lions, Craft Fayre

Saturday October 15th 10am-4pm

The Old Mill Hall Grove

Free Fliers available from Lions

Nan & Ernest Draper 01865 391257

Refreshments all Day.

BBOWT Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust

Sat 29 October 09.30 - 2.30

Autumn Fair and Market

Corn Exchange, Witney OX28 6AB

Home-made cakes, crafts and gifts, toys & games, secondhand books, Children's activities and lots more. WITH COFFEE MORNING AND REFRESHMENTS

Admission: 20p donation

Contact: Shirley 01865 371297 shirley88jarvis@googlemail.com



THE BIG PINK PLUNGE

In the UK 130 women are diagnosed with breast cancer every day. This year, will you help us by taking the plunge and raising vital funds for our research into improving breast cancer detection and survival?



- No experience necessary (full training provided)
 - Minimum sponsorship of £395 (includes £70 deposit)
 - Choose between Tandem, Static Line or Static Square
 - Brackley Airfield, Northampton 23 October 2011
- If you can't make Brackley Airfield on 23rd October, we'll find a venue & date to suit you!

Contact us for an information pack:
events@againstbreastcancer.org.uk

www.againstbreastcancer.org.uk/bigpinkplunge
Registered Charity No. 1121258

THE SOBELL CHRISTMAS GIFT FAIR at RADLEY COLLEGE

Saturday 26th November 10am – 5pm
Sunday 27th November 10am – 4.30pm
Entrance £4 Concessions £2
* Over 60 stalls * Refreshments

*Unique Gift Ideas

Come and support

Sobell House Hospice Charity

www.sobellhospicecharity.org.uk



Charity number 1118646



All Saints' and St. Luke's Parish Page

Dear Friends,

Over the past weeks the British Isles have caught the tail end of hurricane Katia, with some amazing scenes of waves battering the shore and sweeping over railway lines. It has been a reminder of the power of storms, the unleashed strength of nature.

At times our lives can feel a bit like the constant onslaught of the storm – things keep being hurled at us, the constant pressure of people, schedules and deadlines – a storm of doing that can be unceasing and unmerciful.

I have been reminded recently of how important it is to take time out – to carve out space – to find time to be still, to listen, to reflect – to find that first love that is the mainspring of our lives.

Church life can be as much of a storm of doing as any other facet of life – and yet ... at the centre of our Christian faith is the call from God to be still – in order that we might reconnect with God and know who He is, the wonder of His presence, love and power.

Your Parish Church is open every day during daylight hours – to be a place of quiet reflection and prayer. The prayer chapel in particular is being developed in the coming months to be a quiet space for peace and prayer, with useful guidelines to help us to engage with the One who calls us to seek and to find. Jesus Himself knew the value of being alone with God away from the rush and pressure of a busy life. Let's rediscover those quiet spaces – and find strength for the demands of 21st Century life.

With my warmest best wishes,

Revd Richard Zair

Prayer for the Month:

Almighty God,

Thank you for calling us to be still in the business of life.

Thank you for the example of our Lord Jesus, who so frequently found those quiet places for prayer and reconnection with You.

Please help us to rediscover the value of stillness, and help us to carve out space in our busy lives for quiet, for reflection and even prayer.

In Jesus' mighty name,

Amen

OCTOBER calendar:

Sat 1st Oct: Men's Breakfast 8.30 am at the Sports, Scouts & Social Club.

Sat 15th Oct: Women's Breakfast 8.30 am at Manor Farm Boardroom.

Sun 30th Oct: Cluster Service 10.30 am at Kingston Bagpuize Parish Church - where we celebrate with the congregations of Appleton, Marcham, Garford, Fyfield, Tubney and Shippon. **Please note: there will not be a morning service at All Saints' on that day.**

Service for the Bereaved: Sunday 30th - 4 pm in All Saints' Church. This will be a simple service of love and respect to remember and give thanks for those loved ones who have died in recent years. All are welcome. (Please note this service has moved from the previously advertised date of 20th November.)

Advanced Notice: REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY: Nov 13th

Parish People:

We celebrated the wedding of Ellie Timberlake and Andrew McEvoy of Packhorse Lane at All Saints' on 27 August.

We welcomed in baptism:

- Jasper James Dylan Bayley, son of Tess and Jamie, on 4 September.
- Maisey Hutchins, daughter of Alan and Rhian, on 11 September.

Regular services:

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

Wednesdays: 10.30 am Holy Communion
at Duffield Place

Sundays at St. Luke's:

10.30 am on **October 16th** Harvest Thanksgiving Service

Contacts:

Rev. Richard Zair 391319 (r_zair@yahoo.co.uk)

Jill Rowe *Youth and Children's Minister* 07811 165351

Chris Nutman *Churchwarden* 01235 521698

Deborah Flint *Churchwarden* 391056

Janey Cumber *Administrator* 391327

Jenny Warwick *PCC Secretary* 392076

Marcham Baptist Church

(Packhorse Lane)

October 2011



**Sunday Morning Worship
at 10.30 am**

(Communion every first Sunday)

Our Speakers for October include :-

Oct 2nd Mr. Bob Hazell of Wantage Baptist Church

Oct 9th Mrs. Pat Band of Witney

Oct 16th Mr. Tony Valente of Abingdon Baptist Church

Oct 23rd Mr. Paul Revell of Cholsey Baptist Church

Oct 30th People's Praise

Everyone welcome

A prayer for peace in our world

*Make your ways known upon earth, Lord God,
your saving power among all peoples.*

*Renew your Church in holiness
and help us to serve you with joy.*

*Guide the leaders of all nations,
that justice may prevail throughout the world.*

*Let not the needy be forgotten,
nor the hope of the poor be taken away.*

*Make us instruments of your peace
and let your glory be over all the earth.*

Amen

Rev. 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