



# Marcham District News

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

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



December 2012 Vol: 34 No: 12

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



**Marcham Village Shop and Post Office Local... officially open! see page 5**



### In Other news...

Guides enrol in Fire Station & around bonfire ... Pre-School Welly Waddle ... Vanessa FireWalks ... TAG eat marshmallows ... Tony signs Crown Lease ... Jamie inspires in Moldova ... Horses race in Ex-Servicemen's Club



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

Dear Readers

As the year draws to its end, I would like to thank everyone who has helped and supported MADNews in 2012 – by donations, providing regular and one-off articles, sending in photos, proofreading, printing, managing the advertising and the jobs that actually get MADNews from my PC to your hands... collating and distributing. So a huge **thanks** is due to **Sandra, Marg and Jackie** for collating and stapling; **Judith and Peter** for bundling up issues and getting them to our amazing **distributors**... *Neither rain nor snow nor gloom of night can stay these messengers about their duty\**

And thanks to you for reading ... Merry Christmas



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Other copy: 5pm 20th month  
except for Jan when it is 15th Dec for both

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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.

**NHS NON-EMERGENCY**

**Call Free from any phone - 111**

**POLICE**

PCSO Carly Milward C6517  
Call 101 (non-emergency)

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Iain Brown  
Janus, Westcot Lane, Sparsholt, Wantage,  
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**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

*Marcham and Shippon*  
Jane Hanna OBE  
4 Charlton Road, Wantage OX12 8ER  
Tel: 01235 772782

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For other councillors go to

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

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*\*Source: Herodotus via Terry Pratchett!*

December 2012

**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

**The Priory Field**

Parish Councillors have recently been advised that Manor Oak Homes Ltd are about to lodge a planning application for 19 dwellings at The Priory field. The proposed development is in the field where the public footpath crosses, between Priory Lane and the A415. A sketch site layout is available for viewing at [www.manoroakhomes.co.uk](http://www.manoroakhomes.co.uk) under “projects”. As well as 19 dwellings, the proposals include a footway alongside the access road within the site, and a footway along the A415 from the vehicular access point back eastwards to join with the existing cycle track and the pedestrian crossing point where the traffic control lights are situated. The planning application is expected in the near future, and the Parish Council will advise residents when this is to be considered at a Council meeting.

**Footway between The Gap and Fettiplace Road - barrier**

The barrier at The Gap end of the footway did not meet the current “mobility” requirements. The County Council has therefore removed the metal poles at the end of the path, but is leaving the wooden posts in situ, as these will act as some sort of cyclists calming device.

**The Anson Trust and Street Name for new road in the Anson Field**

The Parish Council has written to the Anson Trust, now that planning consent for half of the Anson field has been granted, to offer to meet with the Trustees to discuss both the possibility of negotiating a long term lease of the other half of the field, as previously offered to the Parish Council, to ensure that it remains for the benefit of the community; and also to meet to consider the strategic management of any new community facilities. The Parish Council was asked by the Vale of White Horse District Council, if it could suggest a street name for the new spine road that will run between the new houses on the Anson field. Lots of thought was given, and it was suggested that a name referring to the old archeological remains which have been found would be appropriate. The Parish Council has therefore put forward the name of Bronze Barrow Way or something similar as a possibility.

**Schools Admission Dates**

Is your child 3 or 4 years old? If your child was born on or between 1st September 2008 and 31st August 2009, you need to apply for a primary school place now. You must still apply even if your child already attends a nursery attached to the school. The closing date for applications is 15th January 2013. Apply online at [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/admissions), Access to the internet is available at libraries and children’s centres.

**Local Government Boundary Commission**

The Commission is carrying out a review

of the Vale of White Horse. The aim of the review is to recommend that the ward boundaries are such that each councillor represents approximately the same number of electors. The Marcham and Shippon ward will be renamed the Marcham ward and will have essentially the same boundaries as at the moment, with only slight variations in the north. The ward will have one District Councillor. Comments are invited on the proposals. Further information is available at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

**Parishioner of the Year Award**

The Parish Council back in 2003 discussed the giving of an annual award for community effort. This was to recognise the efforts of local people from anywhere within the parish who had contributed to local community life. Marcham Parish covers the wide area from the A420 in the north to the River Ock in the South and from the A338 in the West across to and including most of Gozzards Ford in the East. The Council gives the award to anyone who, at any time, has significantly contributed to life within the parish. Should there not be any appropriate nominations, then the award need not be made. The certificate is presented at the annual meeting for electors each year. The scheme has been running for the past 9 years and the Council is again inviting nominations for the next award. There are many people who have devoted much time and energy giving to the community now or in the past, who would be worthy recipients. Would anyone who wishes to submit a nomination, please contact the clerk, whose details appear below, sending a short statement of not more than 200 words, as to who he/she wishes to nominate and the reasons why the person should receive the award.

**Planning Applications**

There were no planning applications for the parish that have been considered recently by the Parish Council

**Date of Next Council Meeting:**

**Wednesday 12th December** at 7.30 p.m. in the residents’ lounge, at Duffield Place.

**Clerk to the Council:** Mrs. L. Martin,

90 Howard Cornish Rd, 01865 391833  
[clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
[www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**The Council wishes everyone a happy Christmas**

**FOR CHARITY**

With Christmas in mind Donald and Jean Creasy would like to remind you that Donald has a good many turned wooden items available for sale. All proceed are for charity. If you would like to see the bowls, candlesticks etc. Please ring 391398 and visit us at 14 Mill Road.

**FOUND**

Blue plastic tarp - car or bike cover - found blowing around in Fettiplace Road on 22 November - call 391725.

Dear Editor

Residents of Marcham may have heard that Appleton now has superfast broadband, thanks to a company called Gigaclear who have laid fibre optic cables completely independent of the telephone system. Apparently they only need 43 orders from a village to start the process. I am sure that there will be more than that in Marcham, and I will be happy to collate names. Please e mail me if you would definitely like to be on the list - costs can be found on their website www.gigaclear.com

**WILL CUMBER**

w.cumber@btconnect.com

Dear Readers of MADNews,

I just wanted to say how much I appreciate everything to do with our wonderful new shop, and all the time and effort that has gone into getting it up and running. But I especially appreciate the volunteers who are being trained to run the Post Office for us. Obviously there is a lot of complicated detail to master. We are so fortunate to have people who are willing to give their time to give us this community service which we value so much. Thank you!

**MARY EMBLETON**

*PLEASE NOTE: Letters for inclusion in MADNews can only be accepted if a name and address is given. If you do not wish your name to be printed, please inform the editor when you submit it. Anonymous letters WILL NOT be printed.*

Dear Editor

**Fireworks:** Who are the thoughtless idiots who let off fireworks several night BEFORE the accepted date of 5 November, including some at 10.30 and 10.45pm?

More were exploding loudly over the following weekend, including the early evening of Remembrance Saturday.

The noise is frightening for anyone not expecting it, especially elderly people and animals. I sat with a very nervous animal, who reacted severely each time you cruel people caused us such distress. You shortened his life.

Even a prior warning is no good, because the explosions are impossible to blot out when they happen in nearby gardens, causing such misery. Surely it is time that only organised fireworks parties should be allowed. Cannot the Police monitor more closely?

Sadly, the moron responsible will not be readers of MADNews.

**NAME AND ADDRESS WITHHELD**

Have you got a snippet from a 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.

**Official Opening for Marcham's Shop and Post Office!**  
Ed Vaizey MP was joined by children from Marcham School, representatives of the Post Office, customers and staff for the official opening of Marcham Village Shop and Post Office Local on 16 November. An enormous pair of scissors, yards of ribbon, glasses of fizz and a huge cake all combined to make a wonderful celebration of the hard work and determination of the shop committee. Lots of photos (and video) were taken and there is a selection on the cover and on the MADNews website www.madnews.co.uk.



**Marcham Village Shop  
and Post Office Local**  
**Mon - Fri: 07.30 - 13.00  
& 15.00 - 18.00**  
**Sat / Sun: 07.30 - 13.00**





We stock all you expect in a local shop and a bit more...  
Tea, coffee, sugar & milk (all 3 varieties)  
Bread, spread, eggs and jam  
Sweets, drinks and snacks  
Groceries, local vegetables  
Flour for cakes and bread  
Frozen and fresh meat and frozen food  
Plus toiletries and baby items



You can also order newspapers & magazines for collection  
If you can spare an hour or more per week, please drop into the shop and talk to us about volunteering.

**Come and Support Marcham's Shop**

<b>Christmas</b>	
<b>24 Dec</b>	<b>07.30 - 13.00</b>
<b>25 Dec</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>26 Dec</b>	<b>07.30 - 11.00 - No PO</b>
<b>27 Dec - 31 Dec</b>	<b>07.30 - 13.00</b>
<b>1 Jan</b>	<b>07.30 - 11.00 - No PO</b>
<b>2 Jan - 6 Jan</b>	<b>07.30 - 13.00</b>

*Due to restrictions, the Post Office cannot open on bank holidays*

THE CROWN

Linda and Tony Taylor are pleased to announce that they have signed a 3-year lease which means The Crown will be open until at least 2015!  
Christmas and New Year's Eve menus are now available along with tickets for their Christmas Raffle in aid of Helen and Douglas House. Over the past year they have raised over £600 from various raffles, collections and sponsorship including Linda's daughter completing the Milton Keynes Marathon. Pop in and you can see our local FireWalker, Ness, at the bar.  
*So now Marcham has a shop, a post office, a pub and the mobile library... so just the village hall to go!!*

TOM DOWLING

I really got to know Tom in 1981 which had been declared "International Year for Disabled People". I had put a letter in MADNews saying that I'd like us, as a village, to do something to mark the year, and invited anyone interested in joining me to a meeting at my house. Tom was one of the volunteers who came that night. We decided to fund raise and Tom immediately volunteered to be treasurer.  
It was a good year and culminated in a "Grand Charity Auction" in The Institute in North Street. All through the auction, Tom kept a running total which he added to our total from all the other events and by the end of the evening we knew right away how much money we had for the two chosen charities, The Pain Relief Unit at Abingdon Hospital and Helen House Hospice, which was still being built at the time.  
Tom continued to keep an interest in all that was happening in the village and was a very good friend and neighbour to me after I was ill some years ago. I am grateful to him for his caring ways. I always knew he was keeping half an eye on me during my recovery and I will always remember the interest Tom and Doris took in us and our family.  

DENISE ASHER

**MARCHAM SOCIETY  
MIDWEEK WALK**

**Thursday,  
December 13th.**

For this short winter walk we will explore Besselsleigh Woods and return to Appleton via Tubney Manor Farm. We will meet at the Plough Inn (Map Ref SP443014) in Eaton Road, Appleton at 12.30 for lunch or 1.30 for the start of the walk of just over 2 miles. Members free, non-members £1. New walkers always welcome. Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and further details.



**Have Your Say**

- Wednesday 12 December  
Marcham Shop 10.00-11.00
  - Thursday 13 December  
Duffield Place 18.00-19.00
- PCSO Carly Milward C6517**  
**Abingdon Outer**  
**Neighbourhood Team**  
**NAG7 Marcham, Wootton,**  
**Shippon and Boars Hill**  
**Police Non-emergency**  
**number: 101**

**MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY**  
5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise

Dec 7	Wantage, Civic Hall, OX12 9BX
<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

**THE ROYAL BRITISH  
LEGION POPPY APPEAL**

We have now completed the 2012 Poppy Appeal and we would like to say a big thankyou to all the Businesses, Schools and Door to Door Collectors who gave so generously of their time and facilities to reach the grand total of £ 3367.85p. raised in the Marcham, Frilford and Garford area. This has been passed onto the Royal British Legion.

*With grateful thanks.*

**CHRISTINE AND MALCOLM DENTON**  
01865 391497

**FOR SALE**

4x 7" x 15" 4 stud VW alloy wheels for most VW range inc Golf and Polo. 10 (5x double) spoke type from Golf GTi. 2 with threadsbare tyres, 2 bare. Full set of wheel nuts and in superb condition. £80. 391627

**SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!**

**Tuesday 11th December 2 - 3.30pm**  
**Tuesday 19th December 2 - 3.30pm**  
As usual, we meet at 62 North Street, Marcham  
- mince pies to follow!

Look forward to seeing you!  
Christine Whild, 62 North Street Marcham Tel 391270

*The following has been written by one of our singers, Jane Mander*

**Young Gareth Malone**

Christine's versatility  
Our choir's maturity,  
We're more than a match for  
Young Gareth Malone.

She plays her piano,  
We sing songs we all know,  
Singing pop songs and folk songs  
Alive, alive O

Alive, alive Oh! Alive, alive Oh! We're glad still to be Alive, alive oh!

*To the tune of cockles and mussels of course!*



**JOINT USERS PLANNING GROUP (JUPG)**

The JUPG is the users group for the proposed new leisure facilities. It consists, at the moment, of representatives from **22 local organisations**. A list of member groups was in last month's MADNews and is given again below. **All village groups have a standing invitation to join the JUPG.**

The JUPG is a temporary organisation. It aims to be a single and effective voice representing local groups in discussions with the Anson Trust and Taylor Wimpey during the planning and building phases of the proposed new leisure facilities. The current chair is Jim Asher who is also chair of MCG.

**Change of site for proposed leisure facilities**

The JUPG has written to the Anson Trust setting out its concerns on the lack of any consultation and the possible impact the change of site may have on the use of the proposed facilities and on the business plan.

**Draft budget and possible management structure**

A Working Group has been set up to work on the business plan and a possible future management structure. The Anson Trust has passed its detailed draft budget to the Working Group whose first task is to check whether the proposed new leisure facilities could cover their running costs. **This task is on hold until there is proper information on the current proposals for new facilities.**

The JUPG has the following village groups as members: The Parish Council, All Saints' PCC, Marcham Players, Marcham Society, Marcham WI, Marcham Cricket Club, Marcham Football Club, Marcham Sports, Scouts and Social Club, Marcham Tennis Club, Marcham Bridge Club, Marcham Café, the Men's Breakfast, the Friday and TAG Clubs, the Guides, Brownies, Rainbow Guides and Cubs, the Youth Club, the Pre-school Play Group, the Baby and Toddler Group, and Marcham Community Group.

**To contact the JUPG, please call:**

**Trevor Hill (391321), Chris Ricketts (391329) or Jim Asher (391727)**

**HOLIDAY WASTE COLLECTIONS**

Normal day	Revised day	Which bin?
Tuesday 25 December	Thursday 27 December	Grey
Wednesday 26 December	Friday 28 December	Grey
Thursday 27 December	Saturday 29 December *	Grey
Friday 28 December	Monday 31 December	Grey
Monday 31 December	Wednesday 2 January	Green
Tuesday 1 January	Thursday 3 January	Green
Wednesday 2 January	Friday 4 January	Green
Thursday 3 January	Saturday 5 January *	Green
Friday 4 January	Monday 7 January	Green
Monday 7 January	Tuesday 8 January	Grey
Tuesday 8 January	Wednesday 9 January	Grey
Wednesday 9 January	Thursday 10 January	Grey
Thursday 10 January	Friday 11 January	Grey
Friday 11 January	Saturday 12 January *	Grey

*Please ensure your rubbish bags aren't left vulnerable to animal and/or bird attack.*

\* Please note on these days collections will start from 6am, an hour earlier than usual, so remember to put your bins out the night before.

**ED VAIZEY WRITES...**

As we come to the end of an amazing year where we celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and hosted the hugely successful London Olympics and Paralympics, I wanted to wish all the readers of this publication a Happy Christmas and New Year.



I'm always aware of the many people who work so hard, across the constituency and the country to help make Christmas a truly special occasion. This year, as in every previous year I have been an MP, I'll be visiting all the local sorting offices to say a personal thank you to all the postal staff who have the humungous task of delivering all our cards and parcels. With the rise of internet shopping, that heap just keeps getting bigger! Over the bank holiday period, many others will be working in hospitals, on duty with the police and fire services or keeping the electricity flowing so we can cook our Christmas lunches. Others still will be making sure that some who might have had problems over Christmas are better able to cope. There are many more – far too many to list, but they all make such a difference to the rest of us. That applies across the year too – and volunteers such as those I met in November who run the Marcham Community Shop, make a huge contribution to us all.

*So, huge thanks to everyone who will be working for others over the Christmas season, and a very happy and peaceful Christmas to us all.*

ED VAIZEY, MP Wantage and Didcot (Con)

**Happy Christmas!**



The **Great Marcham Jubilee Weekend** at the beginning of June seems a long time ago now, but we have a postscript to the events. The weekend was held for everyone, young and old to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and to have a great time.

It took a while to finalise, but we are delighted to have made a surplus of **£3200** from the weekend, and to be able to send donations to Thames Valley Air Ambulance, Age UK Helpline, See-Saw and Marcham Moldova Lifeline, as well as support for community equipment via MCG. JA/DA

**GET THE JOB**

It's important that if you are in the at-risk group that you protect yourself from this year's flu virus by getting the flu vaccination. If you fall into the following categories then contact your GP or pharmacist:

- pregnant
- 65 or over
- a main carer for an older or disabled person
- a frontline health or social care worker
- living in a residential or care home.
- have a long-term conditions such as: Diabetes, Heart disease, Respiratory disease including asthma, Kidney disease, Liver disease, Lowered immunity due to disease or treatment, Spleen disorders or spleen removed, Chronic neurological disease



**For more information, speak to your doctor or local pharmacist, or visit [www.nhs.uk/flu](http://www.nhs.uk/flu)**

**WILDLIFE GARDENING: THRUSHES & BLACKBIRDS IN THE GARDEN**



Autumn and winter our gardens are full of Fieldfares and Redwings and spring and summer you get an influx of Song Thrush, Mistle Thrush and Blackbirds. All these species are members of the Thrush family.

Focusing on the Song Thrush and the Blackbird, both these types spend many hours trying to find and eat ground based invertebrates amongst leaf litter, grass of different lengths and in borders. They also eat insects within trees and shrubs and also rotting fruit in autumn. Both species like dense hedges and foliage within which to nest. To continue to attract these birds, make sure you have ample ground cover. This can be made up of shrubs, herbaceous plants and alpines. Slug pellets should be avoided on any level as these species in particular will be poisoned by them. As always providing a wide range of flowers, trees and shrubs will provide these birds with somewhere to feed, sleep and breed.

Blackbirds very often can be seen feeding on short mown grass very close to some dense ground cover. They prefer short grass for worms and the longer vegetation is where they get more wide ranging food as more insects use that. Using meal worms is a good supplementary food to put on your bird tables too.



Both species have more than one brood a year often a Blackbird can have up to 5 broods so finish cutting your hedges by February and then thoroughly check for further nests when you commence pruning your hedges in July time. These simple steps are all you need to encourage these thrushes into your garden.

*Happy Gardening*

STUART MABBUTT 01865 747243 OR 07798 825469

**Bird boxes from our resident wildlife expert**

**STUART MABBUTT GARDENING LTD**

Five different types of bird boxes are available from Stuart Mabbutt to keep our feathered friends warm and safe.

*Wildlife Gardening Specialists*

They include hole fronted and hole sided for blue tits, open fronted for robins, bat boxes and swift/bat boxes that are dual purpose (meaning both species can use the boxes at the same time). All boxes are £17 except the swift boxes/bat dual purpose boxes at £25 and includes delivery.

**Stuart Mabbutt, Wildlife Gardening Specialist 01865 747243**



**CHRISTMAS FAIR AND REAL JAM FESTIVAL AT DENMAN COLLEGE DECEMBER 1ST & 2ND 2012**



Bank Balance  
£15,167

Local Events  
£10,124

Donations  
£5,714

2012 - 2013 Membership  
Voting: 114 Junior: 20

5p Coins  
3872



# Nothing to report

At the time of writing there is still no information on the new site for the Anson Trust's proposed leisure facilities for the village.

	<b>2012</b>	December	<b>The saga so far and what MCG has done</b>
Waiting for response from Anson Trust to MCG concerns on aspects of proposed new site	↑	November	
Anson Trust change of plan / MCG Open Meeting		October	
		September	
Planning Committee – MCG support for Anson Trust & Taylor Wimpey application provided school expanded and hall meets community needs		August	
MCG objection to downgrading of access road to proposed leisure facilities to a gravel track - gravel track proposal later withdrawn		July	
		June	
		Participation in Great Marcham Jubilee Weekend	
2nd Users Forum on community building / Report to Anson Trust & Taylor Wimpey / Comments on planning application		May	
Open meeting on new revised proposals / 'Toolkit' guide on commenting on planning application		April	
Users Forum report to Anson Trust & Taylor Wimpey		Village-wide garage sale	
Open meeting on revised proposals for community building / Report to Anson Trust & Taylor Wimpey / 1st Users Forum		March	
		February	
		January	
		Burns supper	
Family afternoon - build your own hall / Design Specification Notes to Anson Trust & Taylor Wimpey	<b>2011</b>	December	Carols around the village
Open meeting on proposed village developments	↑	November	
MCG charity registration		October	Marcham Masks / Sponsored walk
Anson Trust & Taylor Wimpey's initial proposals		September	

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year





## Marcham WI in December

### W.I. CHRISTMAS MEETING.

Thursday, 13th December 2012 at 7.30pm  
 Christmas Party - The entertainment is from "Three Pressed Men". We will have a Bring and Share Supper. Please bring a ready wrapped gift for the Bran Tub. We meet at Denman College, but please look on the gate for the exact venue.

**Sylvia's Christmas lunch** at the Crown Pub will be on Thursday 6th December at Mid-day.

### County Event

Christmas Songs, Oxford Town Hall  
 Monday 3rd December 2012. 7.30pm

**Your local WI - A voice for women -  
 and a place to make friends**

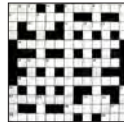
*Contacts for new members or visitors*  
 Christine Whild 01865 391270



### CROSSWORD BY ALISA

#### Answers from November

**Across:** 1 Coast 4 Crowd 7 Pen 8 Isaac 10 Vixen  
 11 Portion 12 Lad 13 Ten 14 Singing 15 Ant 16 Too  
 17 Engaged 19 Tempt 20 Revue 21 Sty 22 Niece  
 23 Skate



**Down:** 1 Chiselhampton 2 Swap 3 Seating Beauty 5 Ruin  
 6 Denman College 9 Condiment 10 Volunteer 17 Epic 18 Desk

### GARD

The main development is that the Environment Agency has now announced that the amount by which abstraction from the River Thames must be cut by 2040 is 250 Million Litres a day (Ml/d). There is only firm evidence for 26 Ml/d but the Agency say that it is "likely" that the additional amount of abstraction reductions will be required. (These are called sustainability reductions). Thames Water have been told by the Agency to plan for the full amount.

This means that there will be a substantial deficit in the supply by 2040 which Thames Water will have to make up. There are also the complication of the effects of estimated population increase (up), water metering (down), per capita consumption (down) etc. It is likely that their preferred solution will be a reservoir! It could, however, be a water transfer from the Severn which GARD favours and which is cheaper, quicker to build and far less environmentally damaging. This is the point we are now at.

There are other sources of supply but realistically it is unlikely that, added together, they can produce such a large new source. However, Thames Water is currently giving priority to the construction of the Thames Tideway Tunnel to reduce London's sewage overflow problem at a cost of £3Bn or £4Bn so they will need to find the extra £1Bn for a reservoir.

GARD's consultants are closely following developments and challenging those aspects of Thames Water's assumptions which are not substantiated. The first draft of Thames Water's Water Resources Management Plan for 2014 will appear in about March 2013 by which time the company will have completed several overdue studies and will have provided us with the details.

**NICK THOMPSON** Hon Chairman GARD

Personal adverts in MADNews are free so if want to put in a notice or have something to sell, call the editor on 391725 or email editor@madnews.co.uk

## MARCHAM PLAYERS RENOWNED MUSICIAN PLAYS AT MARCHAM

**DATE CHANGE! - DATE CHANGE! - DATE CHANGE!**

Please note that the date of the Oxford Waits concert we are promoting in All Saints Church, Marcham is FRIDAY 14TH DECEMBER and not as stated in last month's MADNews - our apologies for giving the incorrect date and any inconvenience this may have caused - pleased to say ticket sales are progressing steadily despite the initial blip!

So, just to confirm:

**A Christmas Concert with the Oxford Waits  
 on FRIDAY 14TH DECEMBER at 7.45pm  
 in All Saints Church, Marcham  
 Doors open from 7.15pm  
 Tickets £10 - £5 for under 12s**

**Wine/soft drinks and mince pies included**

Tickets from Dave Hutchinson 01865 391964: Cheryl Sewel 01865 391200: Marcham Community Shop, North St or on the door. It would assist catering though if tickets could be purchased in advance.

Two other dates to note. On Friday 15th February 2013 we shall be holding the AGM in the Board Room at Manor Farm - 7.30pm and on Friday 1st March there will be another play reading, also at 7.30pm at Manor Farm. Come and join us!

Any enquiries regarding Marcham Players can be made to Dave Hutchinson on 01865 391964 or Cheryl Sewell on 01865 391200



.....  
 www.marchamplayers.co.uk

### MSSSC: Marcham Sports, Scouts & Social Club The pavilion & field off Morland Road Fabulous Friday Functions in December Everyone is welcome



#### Christmas Family Night Disco

Fri 7th Dec from 6.30  
 Only £5 per family

#### Christmas Quiz

Fri 14th Dec from 8.30  
 Teams of four (ish) £1 per person



#### Cricket Club Christmas Raffle

Fri 21st Dec, Bar opens at 8pm  
 Lots of time to buy tickets and lots of prizes

#### A note to members re our AGM:

This has been deferred until the New Year pending resolution of the Anson Trusts plans regarding the new facilities.

For more information tel: 391577  
 email geoff.dix@hotmail.com

"We look forward to seeing you at the club"

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

*We look forward to seeing you at the club*

**Bubble Wrap** - regular quantities from local business. Free with a donation to Keith's India charity. Ideal for wrapping presents!  
 Abingdon Blinds & Curtains  
 Marcham 391881

**MARCHAM BABY AND TODDLER GROUP**

We run all through the year, regardless of school holidays, on Tuesdays from 10-11.30am at the back of All Saints Church. The first visit is free, then just £2 per family each session. Just turn up, or phone Tess on 392833 if you would like someone to introduce you. **Do come and join us!**

**MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS**

On Sunday 18th November, Marcham Pre-school, and the children from the Foundation and Year 1 class at Marcham School took to the village streets for our annual 'WELLY WADDLE!!' Complete with wellies, we walked a route of just over a mile, returning to the Sport's and Social Club for refreshments, raffle and more fun - what a great way to spend the afternoon. All money raised will be used to continue improvements to our shared Foundation Stage outdoor learning area!! And so completes our agenda of events for 2012, oh - except for a visit from Zoolab, Christmas preparations, Nativity, party, Father Christmas, play, learning, exploration, discovery, discussions, music, sand, stories, Wednesday Walkabouts, cooking, imaginative play, mark-making, building, and more play!



On behalf of everyone at Marcham Pre-school we would like to wish all the Madnews readers a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

If you would like to join us in 2013 (or later!) please visit our website at [www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com](http://www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com) or telephone us at 01865 392101.

**MARION, NICKY, KATHARINE, SAM AND NATASHA**  
[marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk)  
[www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com](http://www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com)

**Christingle Crib**  
**On Christmas Eve,**  
**Monday 24th December,**  
**All Saints' Church, 4pm**



- **Animal Crackers (answers on page 19)**
- 1. What do you call a gorilla dressed as a policeman?
- 2. How do you get five elephants into a Mini?
- 3. How do you get five hippos into a Mini?

**Mouselet's Christmas**  
 Lovely seasonal story for children - ideal stocking filler by Marcham author.  
 Can be signed for individuals on request. £2.99 each.  
 Available at the School,  
 Post Office Shop  
 or direct from  
 10 The Gap. Call 391489.



**MARCHAM GUIDES**

We have had two very special enrolment ceremonies - one at a firework display next to a huge bonfire and the other in a fire engine at the fire station in Abingdon! Congratulations to Harriet, Tabitha, Chloe, Hannah, Eilidh, Robyn, Emily, Megan and Chloe.



**TAG**

TAG celebrated bonfire night with marshmallows and sparklers! TAG is a club open to all school years 7 - 9s, we start in the New Year on Tuesday 15th January, 4pm - 5.15ish at the Baptist Hall. More details from Jill Rowe 07811 165351

**ABINGDON LITTLE ANGELS**

November has been a busy month for the little angels, we have had fun making firework pictures, rockets and bonfire pictures along with spending time playing with the autumn leaves and collecting the leaves to paint and print. We have also been following our topic of numbers where we counted 3 bears, 5 little ducks and counting songs. Our football sessions on a Tuesday morning have become popular and the children enjoy football skills which incorporate colour recognition and number works along with following instructions from coach Tom and coach James, (will we have the next England captain?) never too young to enjoy football sessions as our little angels show when coach Tom arrives.



Nursery has also been lucky to have one of our parents come in to celebrate the festival of Diwali. It was a wonderful afternoon, where the children were given the opportunity to make rice flour pictures of peacocks for their front door steps and to try special sweets and food, made by our parent and her little angel, it was really interesting and a fun afternoon.

After school club has also been busy in November Looking at the gun powder plot and making 3d fireworks and collages bonfires, the children also made a life size Guy and added their own designs including a penny for the guy poster. After school club has also seen the children designing their own paper aeroplanes and holding a competition on whose aeroplane would travel the furthest, great fun and some super designs. The children were also given a treat to experience Diwali with one of our parents, sharing stories, customs and food and sweets.

**A fun great and educational month for all.**

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



Out on the hills, under a sky full of stars, it is most bitterly cold. The twinkling lights of the town look very inviting. But no such luck for the shepherds who must keep an eye out for all kinds of unusual predators at winter lambing time...

The Lamb Chop Inn is full to bursting. Worst still, they've nothing to serve for Sunday roast. Mak, who runs the place, has put up a sign, 'NO VACANCIES AT ALL'. Another underneath says: 'NOT EVEN THE TEENSIEST ONE', but a young couple whose car is stranded in the snow knock on the door anyway... With puppetry, hilarity and extraordinary story-telling, 'Give It Back, Mak!' is the quintessential Riding Lights Christmas Experience.

2.00pm 19 December  
 All Saints' Church  
 Admission: free for all local primary-school aged children.  
 Call: 07811 165351



**MARCHAM FOOTBALL CLUB**

Another mixed month in terms of results for The Football Club. The 1st team travelled to Kennington, who play in the Oxfordshire Senior League in the 2nd round of the Berks and Bucks Junior Cup. Marcham found themselves without 5 of their normal squad who were in Cardiff for the weekend and drafted in several of the Reserves for the game. In a very open game Marcham eventually went down by 3 goals to 2. An undeserved defeat given that Marcham had what seemed a perfectly good equaliser chalked off in the last minute, Our scorers were Stuart Armstrong and Seb Crowley. On the same day a depleted Reserve side went down 6-0 to Harwell Reserves who are riding high at the top of Division 3.

A week later Marcham played Challow in the Charity Shield and won by 3 goals to 1. Marcham's scorers were Johnny Lloyd with 2 and Tom Coates in a game spoiled slightly by the incredibly high winds. At the same time the Reserves notched a good win away to East Hendred Reserves, eventually winning the game 4-2. The Reserves scorers were Stuart Armstrong with 2, Michael Bloomfield and Matt Brown. A great weekend with both teams winning simultaneously for the first time this season.

The following week Lambourn Sports Reserves were the visitors to play Marcham first team. Marcham raced into a 2 goal lead within half an hour, Matty Brown scoring a fine double. Lambourn pulled a goal back on the stroke of half time. The second half saw Marcham play some great football without being able to convert their chances and then paid the price as Lambourn scored a 90th minute equaliser. The game however was far from over as Marcham hit back again and scored 2 further goals in injury time. It finished 4-2. Matt Brown capped a great personal performance by notching his hat trick and 3rd goal and Johnny Lloyd slotted a 4th despite battling through most of the game with a dead leg. The Reserves travelled to play Division 2 opponents Saxton Rovers Reserves in the Kingham Cup and found themselves on the wrong end of a 10-1 scoreline. Russ Comley scoring the consolation.

The 10th of November saw unbeaten Dorchester arrive at the Anson Field only to be put to the sword by a terrific battling performance by Marcham, who made it 3 wins on the trot. In what was described on the League website as 'the shock of the weekend'. With Craig Dredge in inspired form in the middle of the park Marcham took the lead through a penalty scored by Wes Coster which was won by Dredge. The second half saw Dorchester continue to play some pretty football without troubling Tom Cairns in the Marcham net. Shane Northcott then scored a second half double to seal a deserved win. Marcham Reserves travelled to Hagbourne and came away with another point, Matty Piper and veteran Neil Cotterell grabbing the goals in a 2-2 draw.


On the 17th, Coleshill were the visitors to Marcham and the 1st team were looking for revenge after their opening day mauling to the same team. Things did not start well however for the home club as they found themselves 2 goals down within the opening 10 minutes. Things then went from bad to worse for Marcham when defender Lewis Wilson was given a straight red card after 35 minutes. The home club re-grouped at half time and came out for the 2nd half determined to get themselves back into the game. They did this through substitute Matty Bank's 1st touch after an hour played. The wide midfielder smashed in a left foot volley 2 minutes after his introduction and it was then game on. Marcham then pushed for a leveller and it came with 15 minutes to go. Defender James Foster on one of his rampaging runs into the opposition box thumped a shot into the top corner for a deserved equaliser. The game ended all square, a great comeback for the 10 men of Marcham

The Reserves went down 5-1 away at Didcot Casuals Reserves. The scorer was Olly Eally with his 1st touch after coming off the bench.


**Fixtures**



Dec	Marcham First Team	Marcham Reserves
1	Faringdon Town (H)	Milton United Reserves (A)
8	Benson Lions (A)	Blewbury (H)
15	Wantage Town A (A)	Didcot Casuals Reserves (H)

LINDSAY MUDIE, Chairman, Marcham Football Club  
December 2012



**MADAGRAMS by Jay**  
Is Your Road Hiden Here?  
**DOCTOR HAD COLA (includes village initial)**  
**CUFFED IDLE PAL**  
**FROTH ETC**  
**LORD FAIRFORD**  
**A HARDY CROW**  
Answers next month...



**MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB**

In late October the Club held a Presentation Dinner at a local hostelry. It was a convivial evening during which an enjoyable Dinner was followed by presentation of Club awards for this Season.



The Oxfordshire Cricket Association Presentation Dinner was held at Drayton Golf Club on Friday 9th November. Following Dinner, Phil Defreitas (of England and, inter alia, Leicester) was introduced as guest speaker; as may be expected, he provided many entertaining stories and observations relating to his cricketing career.

Later, OCA awards were presented for the 2012 Season. A Team Trophy and individual awards were presented to the Club's 2nd XI as Division winners. It was a most enjoyable evening.

Please contact Trevor Hill (391321) for any information relating to the Club – including playing or umpiring for Marcham.. **CSB**

**EX-SERVICEMEN'S CLUB**

Open to members, families and bonafide guests

**Christmas Draw**


Saturday 22nd December 2012 Tickets on sale now

**New Years Eve**

Band and Buffet Now and Then £3 per ticket (Adults only)

*Ticket includes entrance, free drink and buffet*

**31st December 8.30pm**



**EX-SERVICEMEN'S CLUB**



**Happy New Year!**

**BOOK EARLY - TICKETS AVAILABLE AT CLUB**

**ENJOY THE RETURN OF DUO NOW & THEN**

Entry £3.00 each  
Includes first drink and finger Buffet.

MEMBERS AND MEMBERS BONA FIDE GUESTS

**A SPLASH OF MOONSHINE**

*Mystery lurks at every turn ...*

In the summer of 1803, twelve-year-old Ben Crocombe discovers the family boat has been attacked by smugglers in Wringcliff Bay. Floating with the remains of the fishing net is a musical box with the portrait of a French girl inside.

Who can the girl be and how does her musical box come to be in England at a time when a French invasion is imminently expected?



Buy the book at Marcham Village Shop or online  
[www.asplashofmoonshine.info](http://www.asplashofmoonshine.info)

**FireWalk**

Last month Vanessa Mason-Brown took part in the ABC Firewalk in Abingdon. After an intense session with Bruce the trainer, the walkers came into the Market Square shouting "FireWalk" and in the right state of mind to walk over red hot coals (650°C). There will be a video on the MADNews website shortly and a photo on the cover this month.

2012 is a significant year for Vanessa (she turned 40, her partner had her 50th birthday and they celebrated 10 years together) and when she saw the advert for the FireWalk in MADNews she realised that she could include her mother (who had suffered from breast cancer) in the celebrations by FireWalking for Against Breast Cancer.

It is the first thing she has ever done for charity (we hope it won't be the last) and she has raised over £600 from friends and supporters.



**Against Breast Cancer**

Against Breast Cancer is a registered charity that funds unique research into breast cancer, with the aim to find vital information to increase survival after diagnosis and ultimately to discover a vaccine against breast cancer.

Against Breast Cancer's team of researchers, based at University of Westminster are leading an innovative research programme which analyses how the cancer cell, patients' natural resistance and their environment interact.

If Vanessa has inspired you to start fundraising, Against Breast Cancer has lots of different sporting and challenge events to suit everyone – from 10km runs to marathons, and firewalks to skydives! For further information visit [www.againstbreastcancer.org.uk](http://www.againstbreastcancer.org.uk), email [events@againstbreastcancer.org.uk](mailto:events@againstbreastcancer.org.uk) or call 01235 534211.

**The Big Pink Plunge**

What will your new year's resolution be? For the thrill of a lifetime, why not join us at Brackley Airfield for a tandem skydive?

- No experience necessary (full training provided)
- Raise sponsorship of £395 and jump for free
- Brackley Airfield, Northampton, 3rd March 2013
- If you can't make it this time, contact us to arrange a date to suit you!

For an information pack: 01235 534211 [events@againstbreastcancer.org.uk](mailto:events@againstbreastcancer.org.uk)

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



**Could you be a Bin Buddy?**

If your neighbours are out during the day, why not agree to put their bins away in exchange for another favour like keeping an eye on your house while you are away.



**HOLIDAYS**



**Avoid the gloomy weather and holiday in Florida – Stay in our villa near Orlando**

- Located in a private gated community
- Close to Disney World, all other major attractions and many golf courses
- 4 double bedrooms, 3 bathrooms
- Sleeps up to 10
- Air conditioned and fully equipped
- Own swimming pool and covered patio
- Rent the villa from £495 per week

**Tel: Mike & Vicki on 01865 390125 or email [vicki.jack@virgin.net](mailto:vicki.jack@virgin.net)**

A group from Marcham including Paul Davies, Jenny and James Allan, Grace Burfitt, Mary Embleton and Jamie Saulter recently visited Moldova in Eastern Europe to see projects supported by Marcham Moldova Lifeline and All Saints Church.



**Marcham Moldova Lifeline**

Here, 16-year old apprentice

**Jamie Saulter describes: MY TRIP TO MOLDOVA**

My impressions of Moldova were extremely different from what I expected. Visiting Moldova is like breathing in the air from two very different worlds. Chisinau (the capital) is phenomenally intriguing, with the market containing fruit, vegetables, fish - and meat, which wasn't so fine. But some Moldovans in other parts of the country do not have such privileges. For example, an old monastery village we visited had dirt tracks with pot holes. Also some houses were not like homes we ever imagined. For example, no insulated windows and no running water, causing people to use wells. Toilets looked like just a hole in the ground that didn't flush or drain off anywhere. This made me realise how lucky I was to be staying in the city because the house I was staying in was a lot more sophisticated with hot and cold water, electricity and flushing toilets. This also made me realise how lucky I am back home because of all the things I take for granted and do not appreciate as much as I should. The people in Moldova don't have a lot but want to share what they have.

My favourite part of this trip was visiting the Community Centre, which is a safe environment for Moldovan children. I developed a strong bond with the children who may not have a male role model in their lives. I was happy that I shared time and effort for these children because they will always be happy knowing someone made them feel loved. It was very emotional leaving the Community Centre and saying goodbye because I wanted to stay and help.

This trip that we experienced was very fulfilling. We visited the good and bad parts of the country and met loads of people who were very kind, loving and respectful towards us. I am happy that I shared love and friendship with them, and can't wait to go back there. Bring on next year!

**JAMIE SAULTER**

You are warmly invited to come and hear about more about the trip. You are very welcome at either:

- Men's Breakfast (Men only!) on Saturday 1st December, 8.30 am in the Sports, Scouts and Social Club when the men from the visiting team will be giving a short presentation.
- Marcham Church on Sunday 2nd December 5.30 pm to 6.30 pm when the whole team will be sharing their experiences.

- • • • •
- **Animal Crackers answers**
- can't, it's already full of elephants!
- 1. Sir 2. Two in the front and three in the back 3. You
- • • • •

**B&B Rafter's**

JOIN US AND DISCOVER A PLACE TO RELAX

★★★★★  
Bed & Breakfast

Contact: Mrs Sigrid Grawert

Abingdon Road  
Marcham  
Abingdon, Oxfordshire  
OX13 6NU

Tel 01865 391298  
Fax 01865 391173  
[enquiries@bnb-rafters.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@bnb-rafters.co.uk)  
[www.bnb-rafters.co.uk](http://www.bnb-rafters.co.uk)



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

**Dear Friends,**

Are we missing something?

The supermarkets and shops are full of the trappings of Christmas - bright lights, glitter, the latest gadgets, the familiar music etc, etc. But ... are we missing something?

Is Christmas all about material "must haves"? What are we allowing our children to think and believe? Are they receiving the wrong messages? Are you missing something?

One day a tired old man sat in cave on a mountainside. He had just about given up on life, but wanted God to speak. Dramatic events started to happen, but in all the drama, loud noises and spectacular happenings, God didn't speak. But when all fell silent, when there was stillness, God spoke!

Are we so busy, filling our lives with so much noise, that we are not hearing? In all the commercial razzermataz of the Christmas hype, are we so distracted that we are missing the greatest gift of all?

God is still here, waiting patiently for us to stop running around like headless chickens, waiting for those moments of stillness, waiting to 'tap us on the shoulder', and for us to listen.

In the midst of everything that will make up your Christmas this year, may I encourage you to listen? To find some space, quietness, reflective moments and listen. God wants to give us the greatest gift of all - but, as with all gifts, it has to be received - with thankful, grateful hearts. The gift?

Come and join us in celebrating the Gift this Christmas.

I wish you and those you love, the best Christmas ever!

**Revd Richard Zair**

## **Prayer for the Month:**

Almighty God and Father,  
Thank you for the amazing event of the birth of Christ.  
Help us to understand more about Jesus, and why he is so important to our world today. Help us to unwrap the greatest gift of all, and know the security of your love in this very uncertain world in which we live.  
For his name's sake. Amen.

## **DECEMBER Events:**

**Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Dec:** **Men's Breakfast** with a report from the recent visit to Moldova by a group from our community - 8.30 am at the Sports, Scouts and Social Club

**Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec:** A special service for the recently bereaved at All Saints at 3.30 pm

**Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Dec: Give it Back, Mak! at 2 pm**  
Riding Lights will be performing their latest Christmas production at All Saints. The performance will be free for all primary-school aged children living in the parish (Marcham School are attending as part of the school day). For more details contact Jill Rowe (07811 165351).

### **Christmas Services at All Saints':**

Sun 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 6 pm – Carols by Candlelight  
Mon 24<sup>th</sup> Dec 4 pm – Crib Service  
11 pm – Midnight Holy Communion  
Tue 25<sup>th</sup> Dec 8 am – Quiet Holy Communion  
10 am – Family Communion

### **Christmas Services at St. Luke's**

Sun 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 3 pm – Carols by Candlelight  
Tue 25<sup>th</sup> Dec 10.30 am – Family Communion

### **Parish People:**

On 28<sup>th</sup> October, we welcomed Bleu-er Anthony Reed in baptism.

The funeral of Tom Dowling took place at St. Michael's Abingdon on 1<sup>st</sup> November. We offer our sympathy and prayers to his family and friends.

### **Regular services:**

**Sundays at All Saints':** 10 am and 6 pm \*  
**Wednesdays:** 10.30 am Holy Communion at Duffield Place

\*On Dec 30<sup>th</sup>, there will be no services at All Saints'. We will be joining with other local congregations for a family communion service at St. Lawrence's, Appleton, 10.30 am.

### **Contact:**

Revd Richard Zair 391319  
41 North Street, Marcham ([r\\_zair@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:r_zair@yahoo.co.uk))

[www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk](http://www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk)

# 25<sup>th</sup> December –the Birthday of Jesus ???

I remember only a few short weeks ago, in conversation with one of my business customers saying “*Never mind – it’ll soon be Christmas!*” The comment was made towards the end of the summer (did we have one?!) and said humorously – really a reflection on how time passes so quickly, yet here we are with Christmas just around the corner yet again. Where has the year gone? 2012 has flown by, with now distant memories of the nationalistic fervour that most seemed to experience, both with the Diamond Jubilee and the glory of the most wonderful Olympics in living memory. But is it just me, or does each successive year go by quicker than its predecessor?

Christmas is here again, the season when Santa Claus and presents vie with the birth of Christ for our attention. Christmas gifts and the over indulgence with food and drink at this time of year have become the norm for the majority but it’s only in the last century or so that this has been the case. Christmas holidays, Christmas trees, the giving of cards and presents as part of the Christmas celebrations is something that only started in the Victorian era – gifts given as a reflection of the gift that God gave us in the birth of Christ. It was then that the giving of presents started, when Prince Albert introduced the Christmas tree. Before the Victorians, Christmas was not even a holiday and mostly celebrated with just a special service, commemorating the birth of Jesus – God in human form, that Christian theology calls the incarnation. Today, the fun and festivities has for many superseded the Christian festival in importance. Of course, there’s nothing wrong with a special family get together, or celebration, or the giving of gifts but that is not how Christmas started out.

## **Marcham Baptist Church Carol Service**

**December 23<sup>rd</sup>  
10.30am**

*Join us for Carols & Mince pies.*

It seems that 25<sup>th</sup> December started to be celebrated as the birthday of Jesus Christ around the middle of the fourth century, possibly as a Christianisation of pagan festivals. But in reality, when actually was Jesus born? No one knows even the year of Christ’s birth, with the very early church leaders estimating the year and then restarting the calendar from the year that they had calculated. Today, most scholars seem to date the birth of Jesus between 2BC and 7 BC and from hints in scripture, nearly 300 different days of the year have been suggested for his birthday. We could say that the 25<sup>th</sup> December is as good a date as any and rightly or wrongly that is the date that the church settled on centuries ago. The Bible does not make the date clear but actually the date is not important, with the Bible focusing much more on the celebration and significance of Christ’s life and death.

But what does the Bible say not just about the account of Christ’s birth but about the real meaning of his life and death? And what about the significance for you and me? The first book in the New Testament is Matthew’s gospel. It’s an account of the life of Christ, written by one of his first followers. It starts with a genealogical record of Jesus and looks at what Christ did, what he said about life and supremely what he said about himself and his death.

Starting on the first Sunday in January, each week we will be going through Matthew’s gospel, looking verse by verse, week by week, at the life of Christ. Our aim will be to study not only how Matthew’s first hearers understood the message over 1900 years ago but also what it means for us today and how to apply it to our lives. I certainly don’t want to wish the next year away but no doubt 2013 will go as fast as did 2012. Don’t let another year slip by without investigating the importance of the most significant man who ever lived. Why not join us on Sundays starting on the 5<sup>th</sup> January to investigate the background and importance of Christ’s birth, life and death?

Have a fantastic Christmas and though we frankly haven’t got much of a clue when Jesus was actually born, it really does not matter. The important thing is that the One who created us became a man and came to live among us and that is a fact worth celebrating. Come and join us on 23<sup>rd</sup> December for our Carol Service, sing with us some of the carols that the Victorians wrote and made popular, eat some mince pies, take some time out from the hustle and bustle and consider with us the true meaning of Christmas.

Every blessing

**Keith Mersh, Pastor Marcham Baptist Church**

For more information, contact

Keith Mersh - Pastor 01865 391881

Bill Dyer - Elder 01235 814986

## **Speakers in October**

- 2 Dec - Tony Valente
- 9 Dec - Stephen Milford
- 16 Dec - Keith Mersh
- 23 Dec - Keith Mersh (Carol Service)
- 30 Dec - Family Celebration

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