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SEPTEMBER 2022 VOL: 44 No: 9

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE







▲ Goodbyes all round at Marcham School page 11

PART MAN



▲ Jane Belcher's Winning

Entry at The Chelsea

Flower Show page 9

▲ Thomas, who won a trip to the Millets Maize Maze, and his brother Toby

The quiet part of Marcham when Packhorse Lane was closed for 2 weeks (in contrast to the increased traffic in the rest of the village!)





 Watch out for hedgehogs crossing the roads as they get ready for winter







▲ Thirsty Cafe is back on Saturday 3rd September ... and needs you! page 15

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▲ 2022 Little Angel Graduates see page 13

September Diary

September Diary			
Date	Event	Pg	
3 Sat	Abingdon Healthfest, Market Place, 10.00- 14.00	9	
3 Sat	Thirsty Café, Marcham Centre, 09.00-11.30	15	
10 Sat	Abingdon Air and Country Show	5	
11 Sun	Harvest Service, St Luke's Church, Garford, 10.30	20	
12 Mon	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Marcham Village Hall, Marcham Centre. 19.30	5	
15 Thu	Thirsty Café AGM, Marcham Centre, 19.30	15	
16 Fri	Big MAD Quiz, Marcham Centre, 19.30-22.00	9	
17 & 18	Abingdon Heritage Open Days	9	
19 Mon	Marcham WI: Brush Strokes, Marcham Centre, 19.30	9	

August Bank Holiday 2022 Waste Collection Wednesday 31 August
Thursday 1 September
Green, Food & Garden Waste

20 Tue	Abingdon & District National Trust: Grinling Gibbons, Trinity Church, Abingdon, 14.30	11
20 Tue	Deadline for next issue of MADNews, 17.00 Email editor@madnews.co.uk	
21 Wed	Abingdon Arts Society: The Dowager Empress Cixi, Abbey Cinema, 10.30 & 14.00	9
23 Fri	Electric Blanket Testing	3
24 Sat	Music in the Vale presents The Play of Water, Lionel Sainsbury, St Denys' Church, Stanford- i-t-Vale, 17.00	17
26 Mon	Marcham Society, Marcham Centre, 19.15	9
30 Fri	Family Bingo Night, Marcham Centre, 19.30-21.30	15

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

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Dear Readers

I hope you all enjoyed the summer and didn't get too scorched! This issue is bursting at the seams with reports, events and information - you might need to sit down with a cuppa to get through it all!

The missing word from the Millets competition word search was LEMONADE. Congratulations to all those who entered. The winner is Tamara Molnar (your youcher on its wav!).

Until next time



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Fran Russell: adverts@madnews.co.uk Adverts are not endorsed and MADNews makes no guarantees as to accuracy or authenticity.

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Jane Mander

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.

DISCLAIMER

We apologise in advance for any errors that may creep into MADNews (online or print), or omissions that

creep out - we don't do it on purpose!
The Editor reserves the right to alter, omit or hold over copy to another issue. The views expressed in the Marcham & District News are not necessarily those of the editorial team, who are all volunteers.

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Marcham and Shippon Catherine Webber, Orchard Barn, Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ Tel: 07357 464699

catherine.webber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk For other councillors go to

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MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

New Parish Councillor

The Council is pleased to have been able to co-opt Chitvan Amin to the Parish Council to fill the last vacant seat that it had. Chitvan lives on the northern side of the village in the new development by Taylor Wimpey. She has lived in the parish for nearly 4 years, and in that time has built an understanding of the village and its needs. She has already been co-opted onto the working party planning the new play facilities. The Council wishes Chitvan success in her new role.

Village Defibrillators

The defibrillator outside the primary school in Morland Road has had a software upgrade, undertaken by the manufacturer. They have fully tested the device as well as checking the battery and pads. The defibrillator is fully functioning and it is now back in the cabinet and available for use if required. The one outside Marcham Village Shop and Post Office goes to the manufacturers at the end of August for a similar upgrade, and should be back in use early in September. There is a third defibrillator outside the village hall, but no upgrade is required on this particular machine at this time.

If anyone has to deal with a cardiac arrest, then please telephone 999 - Ambulance Service – and ask for the code to open the relevant cabinet, giving your location. The ambulance service control centre has the information, and further assistance can be offered as appropriate.

Electric Blanket Testing

How safe is your electric blanket? Make sure it is safe to use this Winter. Testing will be carried out on 23rd September for the Vale of White Horse area. It is necessary to pre-book an appointment by telephoning 01865 895999 or via email at duty.officer@ oxfordshire.gov.uk. Details of where to take your blanket will be given when booking. For those unable to take their blanket themselves, there is a collection service 3rd - 7th October.

Grants available from the Parish Council

The Parish Council considers any requests for grants at its November meeting. Grant requests are considered once a year, other than in exceptional circumstances. 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 use the application form available in the publications section on the Council's website www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk, and enclose a copy of your organisation's accounts. The Council's grant policy too can also be found there. Details of where to send the application are on the form.

15th October, 2022. Applications received after that date, or not on the application form, will not be considered.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Steering Group is slowly progressing with arrangements for the Neighbourhood Plan and would welcome some support. If you are interested in local topics that affect the area, and would like to help document the ideas and policies on how the parish should change in the future, then please consider joining the Group. Details are available from Cllr. Tony Mackelworth or the Clerk. (current contact details at www.

marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Electoral Roll

The District Council is carrying out its annual canvass to compile the electoral register that will serve for the District and Parish elections next year. You should have received a letter regarding voters at your address. Please respond to the letter by going online at www.HouseholdResponse.com/ SouthAndVale and entering your security codes printed on the form or by telephoning Electoral Services at 01235 422528. A new electoral roll will be issued from 1st December 2022.

Parishioners of the Year

This year the Parish Council has presented two awards to villagers - Neil Rowe and Jim Asher – in order to recognise their immense contributions to life in Marcham, all for the benefit of the community. Full citations and photographs will be in next month's issue.

Speedwatch Group

Two of the councillors are looking at setting up a speedwatch group. This would be a group whereby volunteers, once trained, could use speed detection equipment at the roadside to monitor the speed of traffic. Anyone found to be in excess of the speed limit for that particular road will have vehicle details taken and these will be passed to the Police. Anyone interested in joining the group should lodge their details with the Clerk in the first instance.

Play Area Working Group

This group is moving forwards with planning a new play area. It is made up of councillors and parents. If there is anyone who would like to join and help plan new play facilities in the Anson field, then please contact the

Planning Applications considered by the Council

P22/V1574/HH Installation of a white PVCu conservatory to the rear of 2 Tower Close. The Council had no objections.

P22/V1359/HH Erection of 2 storey rear extension and single storey side extension at 35 Anson Close. The Council had no comment.

The deadline for submissions is Saturday P22/V1586/HH Construction of a natural

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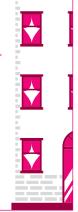
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Mobile: 07775 690523 *References Available* Proprietor: Mr A Bunce swimming pond at The Bothy, Faringdon Road. The Council had no objections.

P22.V1545/FUL Improvements to public open space including footpath connections, landscaping and swales at the public open space at Pointer Place. The Council supported connectivity within the village. It was disappointed that the path nearer the A415 to the west had not been included in the application, and there was a lack of connectivity to the east which had previously been requested. The Council encouraged this to be included. Queries were raised with a wooden fence near the footpath, and a bridge to link through to Monks Walk. The Council asked too for Thames Water to confirm its satisfaction that the proposed drainage swales were adequate.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

The next meeting of the Parish Council is **Monday 12th September**, 2022 at 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall, Barrow Close OX13 6TY

Please check the Council's website **www. marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk** in case arrangements change.

Clerk to the Council:

Mrs. L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Road Tel: 01865 391833

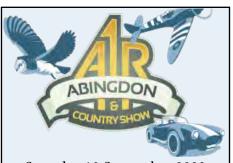
clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

www.marchamparish council.gov.uk

Dear Editor

This is a warning to the person in the village allowing their large dog to use my lawn as a toilet. Your feet won't touch the ground until I see you fined if I catch you.

ANGRY OF MARCHAM



Saturday 10 September 2022 Abingdon Airfield/Dalton Barracks, Oxfordshire Flying and Static Displays Dogs on leads welcome

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A HUGE thank you to all our supporters, volunteers and friends

At the end of July, your local village shop and Post Office celebrated (and survived) 10 years of being a voluntary run organisation. To commemorate the occasion, we treated all of our visiting customers to a luscious cake on 30th July; we held an Anniversary raffle – which we are delighted to say was won by **Sue Lauton**; and as a special thank you to our volunteering staff we held a barbecue in their honour at the beginning of August.

None of this would have been possible without your help, and wouldn't it be fantastic if we could repeat this in another 10 years? Please keep visiting, and if you have a free couple of hours a week, we would be delighted for you to join the 'gang' and become one of our lovely volunteers (no previous experience needed!).

In addition to our traditional and local products, we have been avidly searching for some new and seasonal items to sell in the shop. For that perfect gift, we now sell a larger range of boxed chocolates, fine wines, fancy biscuits/crackers. We have also introduced some basic household items such as combs, scissors, tin-openers, etc, and while the weather is in our favour, we have a new selection of Heinz BBQ sauces to use with the charcoal that we also sell. All this, and much much more!

One of our goals is to sell as much locally produced goods as possible, and coming soon, we will be selling a big range of locally produced wax melts which can be used with an electric or tea light burner – the ideal gift for any occasion.

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Martin Thorne, formerly the organist of St Peters Church in Ashford Hill, passed away on 2nd August in the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford at the age of 74. Martin is survived by his wife Rosalind, his sister Mary, his children Hedley and Nat and his grandchildren William, Matthew and James.

Martin was born in Petersfield in 1948 to Dennis and Dorothy Thorne. He had many interests over time; he held a private pilots licence and flew light aircraft, he closely followed Formula One, but mostly as he grew, as did his love of music. Martin incorporated music into every part of his life, from listening with his father to playing the church organ in the villages of Headley and Ashford Hill. As an organist and pianist, he was one half of a spectacular family musical duo with his nephew Simon Baggs (a professional violinist) and together they performed across many local church concerts and even held a concert out in Tenerife where, later in life, he lived with Rosalind in the winter and enjoyed the company of many friends.

Martin's occupations included engraving and insurance broking before going on to set up companies in the insurance and IT training industries.

He and his family moved to Marcham in Oxfordshire many years ago where he quickly became an integral part of the community. He was involved in many of the musical and theatrical events within the village, lending both his musical and acting skills in front of the camera for village productions and media. He went on to become the editor and printer of the village news sheet (the "MAD News"), culminating in becoming the first Marcham Parishioner of the Year in 2004.

Above everything Martin will be remembered as a loving and caring husband, father, grandfather and uncle. He was a familiar sight and will be dearly missed by so many. His funeral was held at All Saints Church in Marcham, Oxfordshire, on 26th August at 2pm, any donations going to the British Heart Foundation and Water Aid.



Martin in the cast of We'll Meet Again in May 1994





The first Marcham Parishioner of the Year 2004



Martin, Jonathan and Meriel The three Editors at the MADNews 40th birthday party in June 2019

Martin was the Editor of MADNews from January 1989 until November 2003. He used his people skills to make sure the content was lively, interesting and useful and technical skills to bring in photographs and illustrations. He also used a computer instead of typing onto stencils and standardised the layout which I still use (mostly!) today.

He was a brilliant man in so many areas, I knew the editor one best. He made the transition for me to take over his work so much easier than it could have been and supported me in many ways over the years. Never too much but just enough guidance to keep it on the path.

MERIEL

current MADNews Editor

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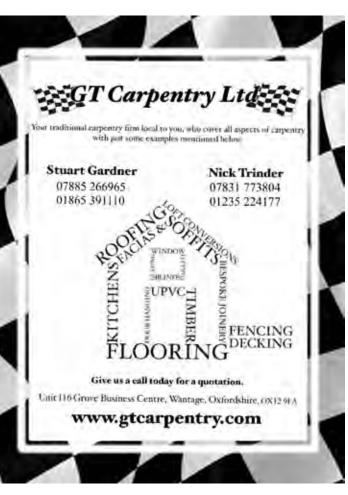




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Marcham WI

Next Meeting:

7.30pm Monday, 19th September 2022

At the Marcham Centre

'Brush Strokes' Painting Session

We are looking forward to seeing you all again after the summer break. At our September meeting, we will be having a painting session, so come along and see what you can create. No experience, or skill, is necessary, as we'll be having



step by step instructions to show us what can be achieved by us all. Maybe don't wear your best clothes!!.

Visitors are always welcome.

For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com

The Arts Society Abingdon LECTURE

Wednesday 21st September, 10.30am and 2.00pm

Abbey Cinema, Abbey Close, Abingdon **OX14 3JD**



The Dowager Empress Cixi -Ruling from behind the Yellow Silk Screen

by David Rosier

This lecture seeks to give a balanced insight into the life and achievements of one of the most important women in Chinese Imperial history. From relative

Portrait by Herbert Vos, 1906 obscurity as a low-ranking consort, it recounts the events that led to her confirmation as Dowager Empress Cixi in 1861, and the cycles of power as Emperors came and went. It explores her desire to force China into the modern world and gives an insight into her beloved summer palace.

Visitors are very welcome to attend this lecture, cost £6.00. If you are unable to come in person, you can view on Zoom. Please email info@theartssocietyabingdon.org. **uk** for further information on the venue, any latest changes and updates. Lectures last 1 hour but allow extra time for announcements etc.

For more information on future lectures and other activities see www.theartssocietyabingdon.org.uk email info@theartssocietyabingdon.org.uk



Saturday 3rd Sept 2022 Abingdon Market Place 10am to 2pm

Following the success of last year's event, we are holding a bigger and better event this year. There will be many stalls where community groups and community services can talk with passers by about what we can do together to make ourselves more healthy and have fun into the bargain.

For more information go to: http://www.healthyabingdon.org.uk/ healthfest2022.htm

Sponsored by The Cumber Family Charitable Trust and Penlon



Monday 26th September 7.15 for 7.45pm Marcham Centre

The new 2022-23 programme starts in September and our first meeting of the new season will be the AGM on Monday 26th, 7.15pm for 7.45 to be held in the Marcham Centre.

The brief formalities of the AGM will be followed by two short talks with a break for refreshments and cake between them:

"The Making of the Marcham Centre Sign" by Suzanne O'Driscoll "Looking back at the Sky" by Jim Asher

Past members will soon be contacted about renewing their subscriptions. We welcome new members and to join or if you have questions about membership, please contact us by email: membership@MarchamSociety.org.uk

Subscription Rates (2022-23):

£23 - family membership £13 - individual membership

For more information contact membership@marchamsociety.org.uk www.marchamsociety.org.uk Facebook: marchamsociety

MORE SUCCESS FOR JANE!

Jane Belcher was awarded a Gold Medal and Best Floral Window at Chelsea Flower Show this year. The theme for the design was Pollination, to be created within a viewing window approx. 1m square. Jane's idea behind the design was a wildflower meadow within a 3D framework, to show bees pollinating and producing specific flavours of honey. See the cover for a photo of her completed entry.





1st Annual Big MaD Quiz Friday 16th September 2022

7.30pm - 10pm

Tickets £9 per person (Maximum Team of 8) Includes a Ploughman's Supper There will be a raffle and the bar will be open!

Tickets are available:

https://pay.sumup.io/b2c/XQIVS4I9Z6

Or contact: marchamwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk 07880 714008 for more information

Venue: Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, Marcham OX13 6TY Hosted by Marcham WI

Abingdon's Heritage Open Days are always a highlight of the town's late summer events calendar. This year the main events are on Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 ASTOUNDING



September, but our "Engines, Drains and Nuisances" Exhibition will be open in St Ethelwolds on the Thursday and

Friday as well, and we kick off with a talk in the Unicorn Theatre on Wednesday 14th. This year's theme is "Astounding Inventions and Innovations" - very appropriate for this area - and we will have the usual mix of exhibitions, open historic buildings, walks, talks and trails. You can find the full programme at https://www. abingdonheritage.org.uk/festivalprogramme



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Grinling Gibbons - His life, work and the Abingdon Mirror Elin Bornemann Tuesday 20 September 2022 Trinity Church, Conduit Road, Abingdon at 2.30pm

Abingdon County Hall Museum is proud to have an exquisitely carved frame by Grinling Gibbons, now containing a mirror, on permanent display. Gibbons was the premier woodcarver of his age, and his artistic achievements and craftsmanship are still held in high esteem. His work adorns many of the great houses of this country but is also found in some lesser known places. Elin has been Collections Officer at Abingdon County Hall Museum since 2015 and has worked in several important collections including at the Pitt Rivers Museum and the Bate Collection of Musical Instruments. Members - free; non-members £3 donation For more information, contact Ruth on 01235 524119.

Abingdon & District National Trust abingdonnt.org.uk

Marcham Centre Caretaker

Marcham Community Group (MCG) is looking to recruit a good communicator, who is confident and able to work on their own initiative, whilst liaising with MCG's Trustees, the Centre's Coordinator, volunteers, and hirers to ensure the smooth running of the Marcham Centre facilities.

Working at the Centre, you can expect to meet and work with all local community groups, clubs and residents. Your duties will be wide ranging, but will include preparation and removal of hall needs for hirers; opening and closing of the building; minor building and site maintenance and undertaking routine daily tasks. This is a new role, and as such, you will need to demonstrate flexibility to cater for the evolving needs of the position. The successful candidate is likely to be familiar with Marcham and its surrounding area and live locally to respond to short notice, potentially urgent, needs.

If you think you have the qualities and enthusiasm to undertake this exciting new role, then please obtain a copy of the information pack by contacting the Chair of MCG via jim.asher@btinternet.com. You may also contact Trevor Hill (Hall Committee Chair) for an informal chat, prior to submitting an application, on 07748696733. In any case, your application should be in the form of a letter and/or CV sent to the e-mail address above. Closing date for entries will be Sunday 18 September and interviews likely during week commencing 26 September.

MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

We had an extremely busy end to our school year. The Year 6s, in particular, had a wide range of activities and events in order to bid them a fond 'farewell'. There was a residential trip to Hill End, they put on a play (which they wrote themselves with support from Mrs Jacob



and Mr Clayton) and then the play was followed by a curry night. All events were a triumph.

We celebrated the achievements of all of our pupils, including those that took the first national assessments since 2019. We were simply delighted by the outcomes and the progress made by our children – the details will be uploaded on the school website for the new academic year.

We also said goodbye to some staff - Mrs Johnson (Deputy Headteacher), Miss Williams (Year 1 teacher), Mrs Jacobs (Year 6 teacher), Mrs Hillier (Teaching Assistant in Reception) and Miss Smith (Teaching Assistant in Year 5). They have touched and influenced the lives of so many in school – both pupils and staff. We thank them for all that they have done and wish them the very best in their future endeavours. They contributed messages about their time in school in the School Newsletter (from 20th July - published on our website) and some are shared here.

It was a particularly poignant goodbye to Mrs Johnson, as she retired after 27 years at Marcham. Many in the wider community were able to leave messages on a Kudo board and on Thursday 14th July, a special afternoon of celebrations took place in school. There was lots of singing and dancing from the pupils, followed by a special surprise afternoon tea party, where Mrs Johnson was joined by so many past and present colleagues, friends and well-wishers. Thank you to all those that contributed to her messages and retirement fund.

A message from Mrs Johnson (Deputy Headteacher)

Marcham Primary School has been a huge part of my life. Previously, I had taught for five years in Essex and a further five in Guernsey. It was the then head, Mrs Langley, who appointed me in the September of 1995. I began with a Reception and Year One class but, during the following twenty-seven years, I have taught nearly all the age groups. I have also led a number of subjects, including Maths and Music. I took over the role of SENCo when Mrs Hutchinson became head. Then, to my great delight, five years ago I was appointed Deputy Head.

I am going to miss Marcham so very much – the plays, trips, Sports Days and the teaching. Above all, however, I will miss the wonderful children, the amazing staff and the wider community of which our school is so important a part.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to my celebration afternoon last week. The contributions from the children were fabulous, and it was great to see so many people at the tea afterwards. The tea was delicious (thank you Thirsty Café) and served beautifully by some of our Year 6 children.

A message from Mrs Hillier (Teaching Assistant in Reception) Marcham School is a very special place for me. My children came to school here and I've been very fortunate to work here both in the office and as a teaching assistant. Throughout there has always been an amazing sense of community for adults and children alike. I will miss this very much.

I wish all the children the very best for their futures - I know you'll be amazing! And I wish all the staff the continued success they deserve - you are a very special and dedicated group of people and the families of Marcham are very lucky to have you.

To see more about what the school has been up to go to https://www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk/class-pages/VIV HUTCHINSON, HEADTEACHER

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PERSONAL CARE



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OUTDOOR GROUP EXERCISE CLASSES, YOGA & PERSONAL TRAINING

FITNESS AT THE FARM



Think Differently, Grow Differently

Just trying to get the old grey matter churning this time, as we face uncertain times individually and collectively. The summer has been a period of sustained intense heat, and many challenges arise due to that. I'd like to move the



conversation on from the debate around is it manmade climate change happening or the natural state of things, and moving it away from the blame game.

Many of us get many health benefits from our gardens and green spaces, and it can be bad for morale if we have to watch them die due to lack of water. I hear many disgruntled voices expressing anger towards the water companies, enforcing hosepipe bans on householders, when they aren't repairing the leaks within the infrastructure.

To that I say, we all have a part to play, us as individuals and the companies themselves. Neither should wait for the other to act before they take action themselves. I've heard it said, we consumers have paid for the water, so we have the right to use as we wish. I disagree, it isn't a right, it's a privilege to have these water supplies, and when the resource is short we should look at the bigger picture, and as a community. We're stronger together.

I agree the water pipes, the roads and all the other infrastructure our current systems and processes rely on are often in a state of disrepair. This infrastructure often just gets expanded and expanded to meet demand, but ultimately I feel this constant growth is unsustainable, This disrepair we see is an indication of that.

So, we as individuals and communities, whilst continuing to look outwards, need to look within for the answers and the adaptation needed. As gardeners and wildlife gardeners we have a big part in that, though we gardeners hold dear the habits and attachments we have cultivated alongside the plants we grow. We may love our pansies and geraniums, our lilies and hostas, our veg plots and our lawns, but we may have to evolve our preferences if these long hot summers persist. We know certain plants don't grow in certain conditions but persisting with plants that like moist soil when we may have dry soil in future makes little sense. It is futile to progress otherwise. During the cost-of-living crisis, we're encouraged to grow our own food more, but in dry conditions we may need to grow other flowers, other fruits and other veg. It can be done, we're not living in the middle of the Sahara, yet. The sadly deceased Beth Chatto was a genius when growing in dry conditions, and her garden, open to the public, is something to behold. One section was almost totally dry, year-round, and apart from a little water when planting it, she hardly ever watered again, and it was full of colour and a joy. Here's a useful link to see what plants grow in dry conditions https://www.bethchatto.co.uk/ conditions/plants-for-dry-conditions/

I said I was trying to get the old grey matter churning and hope I've succeeded, but fully expect I've triggered some resistance in some people. The intention is to move the conversation on from the blame game though. Instead of other people being responsible for our situation, how about the mantra of, 'What Can I Do To Help Myself

And My Community?'
Happy Gardening!
Stuart Mabbutt
01865 747243 www.wildmaninspires.co.uk

Summer at Little Angels Yellow room

Little Angels
Marcham

We have been looking at the British summertime during the

summer months and had fun with water play, using our paddling pool and setting up a large sand tray to role play the beach. The children in the yellow room used buckets and spades and mixed water into the sand to create sandcastles. Our little angels have been keeping cool with lots of water play.

The staff created an ocean with wonderful blue water and sea life. The children loved splashing the sea animals in the water and scooping it into bowls! With the sun shining our little angels have wanted to be outdoors! We have moved lots of our indoors activities outside through the summer! Our little angels have loved getting creative in our outdoor creation station painting in the sunshine!

We are always looking for new ways for our little angels to mark-make. This summer our smallest angels have been exploring mark-making using strawberries and blueberries. They loved squashing them and seeing the marks left on the paper. This was a great way for them to explore new textures and smells!

Teal and Green Room

During the summer months we have been based outside and created extra activities in the garden. We have a giant tractor tyre in our garden that our little angels love exploring. It becomes a home, rocket, a kitchen, car, spaceship and many more things! We filled it will lots of balls to create a ball pit! They have loved throwing them, rolling around in them and diving in! and because it was based in the shaded area of the garden it was a great place for them to play explore,

Our giant sand pit has also been turned into a beach scene, with wind breakers and towels to lie on and a small baby bath was buried into the sand filled with water and toy crabs, The children sat on the beach, went crabbing and really embraced British seaside life. We also created an ice cream shop which encouraged creative ice creams, maths, and social skills.

Alicia, our chef, provided and created frozen smoothies and ice pops to cool them down, The children were also taught and learnt how to stay safe in the heat. Wearing hats and putting on sun cream along with drinking lots of water to keep hydrated. Also understanding why at times they had stay indoors and not go out in the heat and sun.

We have looked at summer wildlife and in particular sunflowers. This was incorporated into our creation station and the children created some amazing artwork. Using scissors is a real skill and it takes lots and lots of practice. Craft activities such as cutting and sticking are great for developing their fine motor skills which will help them as they begin to learn how to write. We encourage the creative station, and the teal and green room embraced the wonderful sunflower cards, cutting them and creating their own little summer masterpieces.

GRADUATION CLASS OF 2022

We had a wonderful graduation ceremony for our 21 Little Angels who are leaving to join the foundation class at their new schools. The sun was shining and the bunting was out along with displays of the children's work. We had strawberries and drinks and the ceremony was attended by nearly 100 people. It was a great evening, and each Little Angel received a Diploma recognising their achievement during their Little Angel Journey. Some had been with us over 4 years starting as a baby of 6 months, so the tissues were out, and it was a wonderful but emotional evening for all, along with hat throwing and party poppers. We would like to wish all our Graduates good luck at school, and we will be thinking of you. We know you are going to Be Great!

If you are interested in securing a place for your child please contact us:

T: 01865 819992E: info@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk www.littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk follow us on Facebook: littleangelsmarcham

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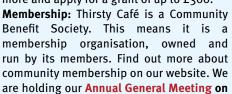
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Millets 5k - Sunday, 25th September

Join us for the annual Millets 5k. Great for all abilities, walkers, runners and buggies. Have some fun, bag yourself a medal and maybe even one of the prizes too. There will be two events this year – a 1km kids route and a 5km route. Any profits from the event will help us buy a 'proper' coffee machine. Sign up via our website or scan the QR code **Community grants:** Our community grant scheme is open. Visit our website to find out more and apply for a grant of up to £300.





Volunteering: Every cafe event relies on volunteers and volunteering is a wonderful way to make friends, feel great and have fun. But what are the different ways you can get involved?

On a Wednesday we have anything between 2 to 5 volunteers covering a variety of roles. For example:

- John sets up and packs away the tables and chairs in the half an hour before and after the café session
- Marie works on the serving desk, greeting, taking orders & payments, and chatting to all our customers
- Anne makes drinks in the kitchen and tops up the cakes on the serving desk
- Tamsin helps deliver orders to customers, clearing tables and washing up
- Melanie helps at our monthly Stay and Play session, keeping an eye on the kids area so that everyone stays safe, has fun and caregivers get a little break to enjoy their drinks

On a Saturday we have anything between 6 and 9 volunteers. In addition to the above roles:

- Jamie cooks all the hot food (eggs, bacon, and sausages)
- Jill calls the orders to the right team member and preps the trays, plates and food
- Ruth hand washes everything before running it through the dishwasher and helps deliver orders and clear when it gets particularly busy
- We double up our front of house team, with two volunteers on the service desk, often with our fantastic Duke of Edinburgh volunteers, and two volunteers taking out orders and clearing and cleaning tables

Alternatively, there are some volunteering options outside of the regular café sessions:

- All of our cakes and savoury snacks are homemade by regular or occasional bakers
- We have a small team who help serve food and drinks at ad hoc events like parties and funerals
- Lots of general background 'stuff' like ordering stock, updating our volunteers and community via email, social media and MADNews, and organising events

At a café session, time commitment is 30 mins, 2 hours or 4 hours. Volunteers sign up for any shifts they want to do, there is no fixed commitment.

We believe Thirsty Café is a huge asset to our community but it relies completely on volunteers. We would love you to join our team in whatever way you can. Get in touch via email, phone or online or drop in to the café and speak to one of our volunteers.

Café open Wednesday and Saturday, 9 - 11:30 am

Website: www.thirstycafemarcham.co.uk **Email:** hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk

Phone: 07871 208811







We look forward to welcoming back all our regular users after the holiday period and a lull in activity at Marcham Centre. The timetable for the next couple of months is already looking to be busy.

Official Opening

The Official Opening of Marcham Centre on Tuesday 5th July went well with a full hall of volunteers, supporters and guests. We were at last able to celebrate the facilities that so many people had worked hard to get right. To celebrate the



occasion, Councillor Margaret Crick, Chair of Vale of White Horse District Council, cut a cake specially made for the day, and which we all shared.

A big thank you to all of you who came to celebrate, to Thirsty Café for catering and cake-making, and to Marcham Guides for helping serve the guests.

MCG AGM - Thursday 6th October 2022 at 7:30pm

The 11th Annual General Meeting of Marcham Community Group will be held at 7:30pm on Thursday 6th October in Marcham Village Hall. Formal notice and the agenda for the meeting will be sent out to all MCG members. Although only members will be able to vote at the meeting, the meeting is open to all in our community with an interest in our facilities with an open session for all to have a chance to ask questions. Please contact Jim Asher (jim.asher@btinternet.com) if you wish to find out more about membership.

Caretaker Post

MCG is advertising for a new part-time Caretaker post for Marcham Centre. Please see the advert on page 11 of this month's issue for further details.

Coming events at Marcham Centre

The events programme is underway again from September. Here are the upcoming events in the calendar:

Family Bingo Night: Friday 30th September – 7:30 to 9:30pm Indoor short-mat bowls restarts this month in the Large Hall on Wednesday afternoons 2pm–5pm – contact Colin Trinder (391718) or just turn up. Beginners and experienced players are equally welcome.

Table Tennis The table tennis table is available to hire, for periods of an hour or more. This can be made by booking a slot in the meeting room via the **www.marchamcentre.org** website. Please note: this room is used for other purposes, so you will need to book and pay the `local user` fee of £8 per hour. Please remember to bring your own bats and balls.

If you wish to book a room at Marcham Centre, please use the booking request system on www.marchamcentre.org or contact our Coordinator: coordinator@marchamcentre.org

Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, Marcham OX13 6TY enquiries@marchamcentre.org www.marchamcentre.org Operated by Marcham Community Group (MCG)
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MUSIC IN THE VALE PRESENTS The Play of Water

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

When: 5pm Saturday 24th September

How much: £10.00

For reservations, please contact Stanford Coffee Shop, telephone 07880 348, Music in the Vale, telephone 01367 718420 or email DJPedderdpa@btinternet.com

Tickets are expected to sell rapidly so make your bookings in good time www.musicinthevale.net

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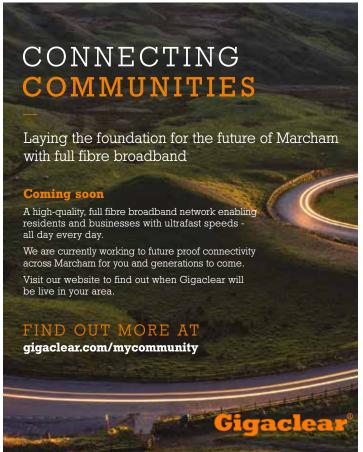


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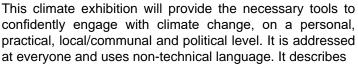
What can I do about climate change? Climate change: evidence, challenges and solutions How can YOU get involved

A Climate Crisis Exhibition in the Garford Village Hall, on **Sunday 9th October 12.00-17.00** and Tuesday 11th October 18.00-21.00

This summer's heatwave might be remembered in times to come as a signal that Climate Change (CC) truly arrived in Britain . It was a wakeup call to everyone to deal with this existential crisis, puncturing complacency and trust in government and media.

But we might feel powerless and overwhelmed by the sheer global nature of it all, and the conflicting information we hear: what can an individual do against this all-encompassing, global

threat, and who and what can we believe?



- 1. the science of climate change, its causes, impacts, and which sectors of society are responsible for it;
- 2. the difficulties in responding to CC, posed by business, politics, economics and "human nature" (psychology)
- 3. the many solutions and remedies for CC both fake and
- 4. and the actions you, the citizen and consumer, can take politically, locally/communally, at work, and individually.

This exhibition in Garford Village Hall will be in the form of texts, cartoons, photos and graphs and it can be explored in any order or emphasis.

There will be seven local organisers on hand for discussion on various topics, ranging from science to agriculture, food supply, diet, politics, local biodiversity, sustainable energy in your house and car... and much more.

Beverages and soup on offer on Sunday; drinks on Tuesday

Please email: beatricemhoffman@gmail.com if you would like to attend.

Facebook: "Climate Change Exhibition"







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DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT RESERVOIR

You will be aware of the Vale's and County Council's clear stance against the huge, above-ground 4 square mile reservoir surrounded by 30 metre bunds put forward by Thames Water as a solution to our need for storing water. The councils argue that such a solution should only be implemented if the need has been proven, and if the need is proven does it warrant such a huge reservoir, the largest above-ground reservoir in Europe. So far it hasn't, as there are other less expensive, less



damaging to the environment and much quicker solutions which could be followed, such as the Severn Thames Transfer. And if we all followed the advice put forward by the Friends of the Earth in Richard's article, we would save the need for several reservoirs!

As a codicil, I thought you might like to see what a recent report from the Environment Agency says about these privately-owned water companies and their performance regarding sewage and water quality, especially as we keep hearing how these water companies are pumping raw sewage into the sea and rivers on a regular basis.

"Four companies (Anglian, Thames, Wessex, Yorkshire Water) were rated only 2 stars, which means they require significant improvement. Two (Southern and South West Water) fell to 1 star, the bottom of our ratings, meaning their performance was terrible across the board."

"The sector's performance on pollution was shocking, much worse

"The sector's performance on pollution was shocking, much worse than in previous years."

"Repeat offenders can now expect criminal prosecution for less serious environmental incidents where once the Environmental Agency would have used civil powers. We would also like to see prison sentences for Chief executives and Board members whose companies are responsible for the most serious incidents. We would also like to see company directors being struck off so they cannot simply delete illegal environmental damage from their CV and move onto their next role"

How shocking that the foreword to this government report is calling for people to be imprisoned! A highly unusual step! So, Thames Water must understand that reports like this one does not improve our confidence in their solving the need for water in an environmentally sensitive, safe and efficient way.

OXPLAN 2050 UPDATE

I have been closely connected with this plan over the years and it is very sad to report that it has now had to stop. Why? Because the 5 districts could not come to a satisfactory agreement on housing numbers in each of the districts, and the plan would only succeed if all the districts were in agreement. I fear that this is history repeating itself, as so far nowhere has such a plan been successful. We had hoped to break the trend. But not all is lost. Much of what has been researched and agreed upon can be used in our Joint Local Plan with SODC, especially the strong environmentally-friendly policies.

WHERE IS THE VALE DISTRICT COUNCIL?

As from Monday, October 3rd, the VWDC will be based in the Vale's Abbey House, Abingdon, for 2 years while the new District Gateway office in Didcot is completed by SODC. The VWDC has been based at Milton Park since 2015, a few months after an arson attack at the headquarters at Crowmarsh Gifford, near Wallingford, and Abbey House, where the district council was based, was leased to the County Council. Now that the vast majority of the district council staff have hybrid working arrangements (working from home or other remote locations or in the office) it needs much less office space. So, the building in Milton Park is now much too big.

The lease in Milton has now been brought to an end, and by moving into a Vale-owned property in Abingdon, the council will save money

on the rent. The council will occupy the small amount of office space on the ground floor of Abbey House.

While Abbey House will be a suitable office location for the short term, over the longer term, the councils will need more collaboration and non-desk based space, in a more energy efficient building. This will help us meet our targets to become carbon-neutral councils and will also help both councils to continue to improve our financial sustainability and offer the flexibility we need to recruit and retain staff in an increasingly challenging jobs market.

CATHERINE WEBBER Cllr VWHDC

District Councillor for Marcham Ward

Phone: 07357 464699/ 01235 534001 or catherine.webber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT WATER SUPPLY

Whatever we might think of the Thames Water proposals for future water supply, and in particular that our area should allow them to build at a cost of £2b+ Europe's largest above-ground reservoir, or whether you are a fisherman or a yachtsman or a vehement objector, no one could disagree that we would reduce the scale of future water problems by reducing our per capita



daily water consumption. Thames Water currently assumes that each of us uses on average more than 160 litres a day. Most of our neighbours with similar standards of living use much less, some as little as 110 litres per day. If we could all follow the best examples we could save the equivalent of several reservoirs. I am not in a position to preach on this subject. Like everyone else, the latest heat waves and the predictions that we should expect many more in the future have made me aware that I have not being doing enough. As a Thames Water rate payer and on a water meter, I have another reason to do more now.

There are things Councils are trying to do and things my family and I could do to help. I decided (for the first time, I am ashamed to say) to spend 48 hours focusing on how my family and I use water. Morning tea or coffee / dish washer / washing saucepans/ flushing loos / watering garden / washing cars / cleaning teeth / laundry / showers and baths / washing hands / window cleaning / house cleaning — all together it's a staggering amount. Would I and my family be able to exist on 70% of our current water usage?

One particular excess which came to light in our house is that our cold water and hot water kitchen pipe is shared. To get a glass of cold water (4 or 5 a day for each of us in recent weather) we have been used to running off the warmer water from our cold tap until the water has run cold. When we collected the run off of warm water, we had enough to water most of the garden. It may not be enough to save the planet but it's a start.

I am sure there will be hundreds of other good ideas being used by residents which would benefit everyone. If you have ideas, please let me know and I will publish them.

I already treat the car accelerator pedal like a tap, likewise our fuel and energy consumption; it's about time I treated water the same way. Here are the Friends of the Earth tips for saving water:

- 1. Turn off the tap when brushing teeth (6 litres/min) and fix leaking taps (up to 60 litres a week wasted)
- 2. Shower with less ... 17 litres used every minute.
- 3. Save up dirty clothes. Full loads use less water than two half loads.
- 4. Reduce food waste.
- Water plants early morning and evening manually and water soil at roots.
- 6. Water butt saves up to 5000 litres a year.
- 7. Low flush toilets use less than half the old-style toilet.

- 8. A full dishwasher uses less water than washing everything by hand.
- 9. Eat seasonal vegetables where possible.
- 10. Only boil the water you need.
- 11. Steam your veg.
- 12. Check pipes for leakage. Locate household stop valve and keep local Thames Water telephone number handy.

RICHARD WEBBER Cllr OCC SC & Marcham Division. Phone 01235 534001 or email Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com

MP'S REPORT

I'm very grateful to the companies that have offered work experience to local young people so far as part of my work experience campaign. They're from a range of different sectors and highlight the depth and breadth of employment opportunities — and creativity —across the constituency. I have been hosting the young people interested in politics myself — 6 so far — and, given



what has been happening in recent weeks, they've seen some quite eventful times in Westminster, albeit still at a bit of a distance. It's clear lots of organisations have got out of the habit of providing work experience as a result of Covid, so if your organisation can help, please do get in touch: I'm arranging placements for October half-term.

You might have seen a debate in parliament has been renamed the Sir David Amess Summer Adjournment Debate. This debate happens just before we go on summer recess and allows us to raise any issues of relevance to our constituencies. Sir David's contribution was always a tour de force as he could get 30 or so topics into a 4-minute speech, so naming the debate in his memory is a fitting tribute.

For what it's worth, I didn't manage anything like 30 topics. I managed to get in a few, including the Didcot Good Neighbour Scheme and my campaigns on GP surgeries, Grove Station, building homes to the latest environmental standards and the Local Electricity Bill, as well as problems constituents have been having with passports and driving licenses (and a couple of other things). But as I said as I started, none of us can get close to what he used to do in that debate.

Recess is its usual mixture of activity: surgery appointments across the constituency and visits to local businesses and charities, alongside attending summer events and the usual casework, doorknocking and planning for the autumn. It's good to be able to spend a lot more time at home in Didcot – even if it is as hot as it is! – but contrary to what some people suggest, it's far from a 5-week holiday. I am getting to read more than I usually get to when parliament is sitting, which I very much miss most of the year, and I will have a week abroad for a holiday, but few of us down tools. By the time I write the next piece we'll know who the next Prime Minister is. Based on the conversations I've been having, I suspect the race is closer than people expect. Whoever wins has a big set of challenges facing them, starting with the cost of living, particularly energy. While I don't know exactly what each candidate will do if they win, I know whoever does will take further action to support people as every one of us realises how difficult things are.

As ever, if I can help with anything do get in touch via **david.** johnston.mp@parliament.uk

DAVID JOHNSTON OBE MP, Member of Parliament for Wantage, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA 0207 219 3858 Email: david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk



ABINGDON RESERVOIR – LATEST FROM GARD Abingdon reservoir – not a solution during drought

The recent dry spell has highlighted the need for effective water resource management but the proposed Abingdon reservoir would not provide resilience during drought conditions.

- Covering over 4sq miles of land, up to 30m in height above ground and holding 150 billion litres of water it would take 10 years to build and a further 2 years to fill from the Thames.
- The alternative Severn to Thames transfer scheme could be up and running in 3 years and would bring new water into the area.
- Past records show, that in a drought like 1976, it would have been impossible to fill the Abingdon reservoir from the local Thames for over 18 months.
- What the drought does highlight is that Thames Water, who
 leak more water in a day (600 million litres) than any other UK
 water company, need to urgently deal with this problem where
 a solution could be delivered years before the construction of
 any reservoir.

Upcoming dates

- The consultation of the Thames Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) is anticipated to start in mid-November and last for 14 weeks. At the same time, the WaterResources South East (WRSE) draft plan for the region will be out for consultation.
- These plans set out how the water companies plan to provide a secure and sustainable water supply We are waiting to see if the reservoir fits into these plans (as we suspect it will).
- We expect the next 'gate' in the RAPID process to be around the same time. This will be a crucial point, as it represents the earliest point for the government to discard the reservoir plan, or put it on the back burner for the end of the century.
- Oxfordshire County Council are reviewing dates to reschedule the June watersummit. The end of September is now a possibility.

We will keep you all fully informed of the proposals, upcoming dates, and how to campaign against them/share your views on the decisions.

For further information, updates, contact details or to join GARD visit: www.gard-oxon.org.uk, Facebook: @abingdonreservoir, Twitter: @GARD OXON

Grand Jumble Sale and Super Raffle Saturday 8th October, Southmoor Village Hall OX13 5BY Doors Open 2pm Entry 50p

If anyone has any Jumble they wish to donate to this very worthy cause it can be delivered to the Hall on the day between 10 a.m. -1 p.m. or collection can be arranged by calling Yvonne - 01235 868276 or Hazel - 01865 820817. All donations will be very much appreciated. We can accept anything except large furniture items or electrical goods. In the past our fund raising events have



been extremely successful due to the generosity of the general public, much better than taking items to the tip!!

In aid of

ALL SAINTS' & ST. LUKES CHURCHES

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

Never again will they hunger, never again will they thirst.

The sun will not beat down on them, nor any scorching heat.

For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of LIVING WATER And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

REVELATION 7 v 16-17

It is bone dry across Oxfordshire, arid and parched. As I write, in the first week of August, it feels like we haven't had any usable rain for weeks. There is none in the long-term forecast, and parts of the south are under a hose-pipe ban. The record-breaking heat of a few weeks ago has gone, but its effects seem to linger. Life can often feel hard and dry in our individual circumstances, but I don't think I am the only one to sense that there is a worrying and fractious barrenness in the cultures of "the West" at the moment. Our politics is acrimonious. Our climate seems perilous, and everything seems ever-so expensive. There is a danger in seeing a catastrophe in every crisis. And there has been widespread, genuine joy over the Jubilee, the Lionesses and the Commonwealth Games, but one cannot deny "the land" appears bare. Will it always be like this? What did we do when it's been like this before? The Christian answers to those two questions are: no and pray. No - hardship and plenty tend to be cyclical, and I at least believe in the Kingdom come. But we must pray for rain, literally and metaphorically. Life-giving, thirst-quenching spiritual water is mentioned frequently in the Bible. Jesus promises it, and heaven is pictured as a place saturated with it. Faith says things won't always be like this, because of Christ. And history tells us it has been faith that has made a huge difference when the cultural landscape has turned sterile and graceless. So as we head into September with a new Prime Minister, more vaccinations, economic recession and sky-high bills it is time for the autumn rains of faith to burst forth upon our dry land. There is always hope, and faith keeps watch for the smallest cloud on the horizon, knowing that one decent soaking can transform the garden. At All Saints and St Luke's we have lots planned this autumn to irrigate the soul... starting with the children's Holiday Club on 30th August, then Harvest services in both churches, St Luke's Patronal Service, a sermon series on Jonah (that was a watery affair!) and much more. Time for a drink perhaps? If you are searching for streams of living water, we would love to welcome you.

Regular services (ALL WEEKS)

10am: Morning Service at All Saints' 11am-12pm: Open church at St. Luke's

6pm: Evening Service

Wednesday Holy Communion 10.30am at Duffield Place

From the Registers: Funerals

Alastair Campbell Jennifer Johnson Martin Thorne

St. Luke's Harvest Service

Sunday 11thSeptember, 10.30am, Garford

critical and second

Contacts:

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Tamsin Gilbert Parish Administrator info@allsaintsmarcham.org