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The St Francis Edition

DECEMBER 2017 50P

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TOWER_{AND}TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

NUMBER 677 DECEMBER 2017



Editorial

On 23rd September 1941, St Francis School was founded by Miss Phyllis Burden in Pewsey; now, over 75 years later, the school has been given the opportunity to edit the December edition 2017 of ‘Tower and Town’.

There followed a discussion between our Year 8 class and me as to what they could contribute. The children decided that as they were following a theme of conflict in their studies this term, perhaps they could connect the history of the school and aspects of Wiltshire with wartime; as well as St Francis being set up mostly as a direct consequence of World War Two, one of our current buildings was a World War One convalescent hospital.

You will find a mixture of factual and fictional pieces in here, from Lottie Royle’s sensitive description of First World War soldiers waiting to ‘go over the top’ to Mina Angus and Hannah Keighley’s article on wartime canine heroes. I hope you enjoy reading these items as much as Year 8 enjoyed researching and creating them.

As we approach the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One, let us remember that 1918 finished on a note of hope so, especially after some of the dark events of 2017, it would be wonderful if we could start 2018 in a similarly optimistic manner.

Chris Murgatroyd—Editor

Cover: Travancore, St Francis School, as a wartime hospital (*Google Images*)

Compiler: Mark Philips

Proof readers: Mike Jackson, Julia Peel

CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2017

All the churches of Marlborough wish you a very
Happy Christmas and warmly invite you to worship with us.

Sunday, 10th December

4.00pm Carol Service (St John the Baptist, Minal)

Sunday, 17th December

10.30am Carol Service (Christchurch, Marlborough)
5.00pm Carol Service (St Mary's, Marlborough)
6.00pm Candle-lit Carol Service (St George's, Preshute)

Wednesday, 20th December

7.00pm A Quieter Christmas (St Mary's, Marlborough)

Saturday, 23rd December

3.00pm Teddy Prayers Sing-Along Nativity (St George's, Preshute)

Christmas Eve – Sunday, 24th December

8.00am Holy Communion (St Mary's, Marlborough)
10.30am Christmas Eve Service (Christchurch)
10.30am Quakers' Meet (Friends' Meeting House, Marlborough)
11.00am Sunday Mass (St Thomas More, Marlborough)
3.00pm Crib Service (St Mary's, Marlborough)
3.00pm Crib Service (St George's Preshute)
4.00pm Family Mass with Carols and Blessing of Crib (St Thomas More)
5.00pm Village Nativity - starting at The Horseshoe Inn (Minal)
9.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass - Carols from 8.30pm (St Thomas More)
9.00pm Midnight at Bethlehem - Pewsey Methodist Church
10.00pm First Communion of Christmas (St George's, Preshute)
11.30pm Midnight Communion (St Mary's, Marlborough)

Christmas Day – Monday, 25th December

8.00am Holy Communion (St Mary's, Marlborough)
8.00am Holy Communion (St George's, Preshute)
9.00am Christmas Mass (Holy Family Church, Pewsey)
9.30am Family Communion (St John the Baptist, Minal)
10.00am Family Communion (St Mary's, Marlborough)
10.00am Family Communion (St George's, Preshute)
10.30am All Age Worship for Christmas (Christchurch, Marlborough)
11.00am Christmas Mass (St Thomas More, Marlborough)

Sunday, 31st December 2017

- 8.00am Holy Communion (St Mary's, Marlborough)
10.00am Parish Communion (St George's, Preshute)
10.00am Parish Communion (St Mary's, Marlborough)
10.30am Section Service (Christchurch, Marlborough)
11.00am Sunday Mass (St Thomas More, Marlborough)

Congratulations to Canon Andrew Studdert-Kennedy on being appointed Honorary Chaplain to Her Majesty the Queen.



**St Mary's Church, Marlborough
Children and Families' Worker**

We are looking for someone who will help develop the work being done amongst children, families and young people in our parish, and who will contribute to our main aim "to make Jesus known" amongst the people of Marlborough. Some experience in working with children is essential. The post holder will work closely with the Rector and the Children's Work Team.

Hours: 15 – 20 hours/week (to include 4 hours approx. on Sunday)

Salary: Will be dependent upon the prior experience and training of the applicant, and the number of hours worked. Range to be between £10-£12/hour; £7,800 - £12,480 per annum.

Closing date for application: Thursday 4 January 2018

Interview date: Friday 12 January 2018

For the job profile, or for an informal chat, contact Revd Andrew Studdert-Kennedy andrewsk1959@btinternet.com Tel. 01672 514357

There is a genuine occupational requirement for the post to be filled by a Christian.

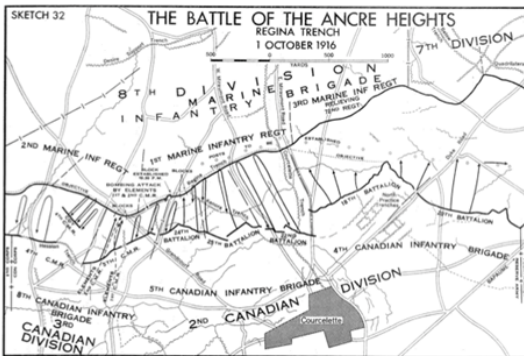
An Enhanced Disclosure check will be required for the successful applicant.

The son of Mary and James Flippance, Private James Flippance was born on 9th October 1890 in Pewsey, Wiltshire. He grew up in the French Horn in Pewsey, but his father would have liked him to grow up in Australia. James then married Lucy Flippance of Milton Lilbourne, Marlborough, Wiltshire.

On 7th October 1914 he was invited to join the 49th battalion of the Canadian Infantry (Alberta Regiment). They disembarked in France on 9th October 1915, where they fought as part of the 7th Infantry Brigade and the 3rd Canadian Division in France and Flanders until the end of the war.

James' first fight was at Mount Sorrel, which included three divisions of the British Second Army and three divisions of the German Fourth Army who fought from 2nd to 14th June 1916. This battle was part of the build-up to the battle of the Somme.

His second battle was during the Battle of the Somme, the Battle of Flers–Courcellette which lasted from 15th to 22nd September 1916. The French Sixth Army, the British Fourth Army and the Reserve Army all fought against the German 1st Army. Tanks were used for the first time in this battle and the German Empire was brought close to collapsing.



The battle of Ancre Heights was part of the Battle of the Somme and lasted from 1st October to 11th November 1916. The battle of Ancre Heights is the name given to the many British attacks after the battle of Thiepval Ridge. The battle was headed by the reserve army who also led large attacks on 1st, 8th, 21st and 25th October and on 10th and 11th November.

Lots of smaller attacks were issued in between, with many interruptions of heavy rain, which turned the ground and roads into rivers of mud. By 21st October the British army had advanced by 500 yards and had taken all but one of the German footholds in the eastern part of Staufen Riegel (a German trench).

Sadly, James Flippance did not reach the end of this battle as he died, aged 26, on 8th October 1916. Private James Flippance died in the Battle of the Somme and was buried in the Tincourt new British cemetery, Somme, France. His tombstone still stands today with many other victims of the war who were from Wiltshire.

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For further enquiries, please contact Lorraine Wash on (020) 8569 8364 or email lorraine.wash@ospreymc.co.uk



1. An explosion on the battlefield in France was heard in London

While the war was being fought in the mud and trenches, there was another war going on below the soldiers' feet. A group of miners had secretly dug tunnels up to 100ft long beneath the enemy's trenches and had planned to plant and detonate mines. Their biggest success was at Messines Ridge in Belgium, where over 900,000lbs of explosives were simultaneously detonated in nineteen underground tunnels. Much of the German front line was destroyed, and the explosions were so loud that they were heard 140 miles away by the British Prime Minister in Downing Street.

2. Twelve million letters were delivered to the front every week

During World War One it took a surprisingly short amount of time for a letter from Britain to reach the front in France. The start of the journey was a purpose-built sorting depot in Regent's Park and then they were shipped to the trenches. By the end of the war, a staggering two billion letters and 114 million parcels had been delivered.

3. The youngest British soldier was twelve years old

Sidney Lewis was twelve years old when he lied about his age so he could he fight for his country. He joined the army at the beginning of the war. He was one of thousands of eager underage boys who were enlisted and ended up fighting alongside their adult counterparts on the front. Some boys were motivated by patriotism, but some wanted to escape from their dreary lives.

4. Nine out of ten soldiers survived life in the trenches

Being in the firing line was rare for a British soldier. They were constantly moving around the trench system, meaning that most of the time they were kept from the dangers of enemy fire. The more typical experience for a British soldier would have been a life of boredom and a regular routine for many years.

5. World War One nearly caused a financial meltdown in Britain

At the turn of the 20th century, Britain was an economic superpower, but the world's first global war cost more than any other war had before. It was reported that the cost of bullets in one twenty-four hour period in September 1918 was almost four million pounds.

Congratulations to the Revd Miri Keen on being appointed Rector of the West Downland Benefice in West Berkshire. See page 21 for details of Miri's final Sunday in the Marlborough Team.

“One minute” rasped the officer.

My breathing started to quicken forming a misty cloud, my numbed fingers icily gripped my gun, my ripped coat flapped in the wind, the zip was undone but I daren't move to do it up. Under my breath I started to sing, soothing my panicking body, but it only brought tears to my eyes.

“Thirty seconds,” wheezed the officer, his eyes focusing on nothing but the broken rungs on the mud-stricken ladder.

My emotions skipped from sad to confused to hurt over and over again, like my head was pressing the repeat button. I felt like a blank piece of paper lost in whirling winds, sad and lonely. I knew I should have been blown over by grief but instead I felt overthrown with guilt, by not being sad because I didn't believe it, that this was it, I wasn't to live any longer. Wind whipped my cheeks as sleet cut through my already battered skin. Mother would be proud of me, I kept telling myself, mother would be proud of me.

“Ten seconds,” spluttered the officer, the confidence that he once filled the other men with was weeping steadily out.

I almost became unconscious with fear, the emotions which I had shut out came flooding back, sweeping me into an ocean of horror.

“Five” The guns in the background had almost become soothing.

“Four” the only regular sound that I ever heard.

“Three” the many hours bored in the trenches wished away.

“Two” seemed so appealing yet it had all been about this.

“One” this was it “GO, GO, GO!”



Dogs of War

Mina Angus & Hannah Keighley

All through history, dogs have been used to fight our battles and win our wars. They have been forced to do terrifyingly dangerous tasks, completely innocent of the consequences that await them.

In World War One, up to 20,000 dogs were trained to fight on the front line: sending messages through miles of knee-deep mud; pulling huge, heavy weapons; sniffing out bombs, and even being sent under tanks laden with bombs. One of the

Continued on p.12

Interior Lives by Victoria Jinivizian, 9th November – 2nd December
at The White Horse Gallery.

Interior Lives by Victoria Jinivizian is the latest portfolio of work to be exhibited in The White Horse Gallery.

This new collection by artist and regular White Horse tutor, Victoria Jinivizian, is simply sublime. Her subject - interiors - holds great personal significance and influence. She prepares traditional gesso panels, and works in oils after making many drawings. However, not all of Victoria's works on show here are in oil. Indeed, the exhibition shows an array of mediums and styles, whether it's a pencil or biro drawing, soft pastel and watercolour, or an etching.

Conscious of abstract composition and shape, the artist continues to ensure that the crucial elements of each piece, atmosphere, experience and emotion, are maintained by using various colour palettes. In each drawing of a different room, Victoria sensitively creates home, familiarity, comfort and reassurance. These are all powerfully conveyed by the attention to detail, whether it be through colour, or the artist's perspective. Interior spaces are, as she says, "containers for people's lives and the history they have witnessed". Although enclosed spaces are solid and fixed, their shape and feeling can change according to time, light, people, experiences, and the objects within them.

An exquisitely executed collection of work.

Looking Ahead: the last exhibition of 2017 will be work from students at St Mary's, Calne. Keep an eye out on The White Horse Bookshop website for dates and more information: <http://www.whitehorsebooks.co.uk>.



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Soldier training at Bulford Camp

James Roberts

Bulford Camp (close to the village of Bulford) is a large army camp on Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire. It was established in 1897 and even though the camp was very small to start with, it grew.

In the camp the section called Sling Camp had corporals in it from Australia and New Zealand. The Bulford Kiwi was created by the corporals, it was a mural on the hill. Corporals started to disobey orders when the camp became the site of the Battle of Bulford after the war had finished.



During the years between the wars some barracks were built and in 1931 new names were given to them. Carter Barracks was a camp built in 1939-40 and destroyed in 1978.

Today, Bulford camp is split up into two sites because they are separated by the Marlborough Road. The Kiwi Barracks and the Picton Barracks were on the eastern side of Bulford Camp and on the western side there is Ward Barracks and the Special Investigation Branch is built on Champion Lines which is also on the western side of the camp.

From 1906 to 1963 there was a railway going from Amesbury to Bulford Camp. The railway took people and goods back and forth and in 1952 it stopped taking people although it kept taking goods until 1963.

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Leader Edward Judge
Soloist Zena O'May
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Continued from p.8

less glamorous jobs was catching rats: rats were a huge problem in the trenches so cats and dogs were called in to kill them.

In World War Two their main role was a sentry dog. These dogs were taught to express a soft growl or bark when they sensed the presence of a stranger. They were particularly useful when the troops were in darkness. A similar job was a scout dog. This required a quiet nature and exceptional intelligence; they alerted the troops to an ambush. Their way of communicating was a subtle prick of the ears and a stiffening of the body. This silent signal would avoid alerting the enemy.

Messenger dogs were used frequently during both world wars. The dogs were smaller and less suspicious targets to the enemy but the opposition would still shoot anything or anyone who could be carrying a message. To do this job effectively, it was crucial they were loyal; otherwise anything from the smell of someone's dinner to another dog on an errand could distract them from their mission.

Another dangerous task was that of the explosion detectors. It was their duty to sniff out enemy bombs. Many dogs could sniff out a bomb but the challenge was getting there in time before the bomb had already done its dreadful deed.

Casualty dogs were sent out into the battlefield to find the wounded; they were equipped with the supplies needed to save them but if it was too late for the soldier, 'mercy' dogs would loyally wait amid the chaos to keep them company in their final minutes.

Dogs helped the soldiers in one other way: comfort. Just having a dog in the trenches was a psychological relief from the horrors of war. It was a reminder of home and that there is some good in life, even though war can bring out the worst in everything and everyone.



One particular dog that served in World War Two was Chips - a German Shepherd, Collie and Husky mix donated to the army by Edward Wren.

After training as a military dog, Chips travelled the world serving his troop - the 3rd Infantry Division - in North Africa, Sicily, France, Germany and Italy. In 1943, in a battle in Sicily, Chips and his owner were trapped on a beach by machine gun fire. Chips broke free of his owner's grip and charged towards the fire, then attacked the men firing and caused them to surrender. After the war, he returned to the Wren family as a hero.

Undoubtedly the most well known and prayed prayer is the Lord's Prayer – the prayer Jesus taught his disciples. Most of our services include it somewhere in the liturgy. It can roll off the tongue without much thought. But what is one praying for when one says this prayer? After addressing God as Father, it goes on to pray: 'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.'

But what does this really mean? What are we praying for when we pray 'Thy kingdom come' and what changes might we see that would cause us to thank God for answering that prayer? When Jesus started his ministry the Gospel writers say that he came proclaiming 'good news' and that in him the kingdom of God had come near. He goes on to teach his disciples what this means in practice. The kingdom of God is not a geographical place but is wherever the rule of God is acknowledged and his will is done in the lives of his followers.

In December we enter the season of Advent. Advent is the time we prepare to celebrate the coming of Jesus as a baby at Bethlehem and the significance of God taking human flesh. But it is also a time when we look forward to Jesus coming again – the time when heaven and earth will be united and the whole of creation will be renewed and there will be no more evil and suffering.

Two thousand years after the birth of Jesus we live in a world in which there is still much darkness and suffering. Yet there are also many examples of when the light of Christ shines in the darkness, when something of the life of heaven comes on earth. If we claim to be followers of Jesus then as we look back with thankfulness for his first coming and look forward to him coming again, so we need to be open to his coming into our lives today that we might be channels of his love to a needy world.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in;
Be born in us today.



What's on in December/January

Every Monday

7.30pm: Christchurch. Marlborough Choral Society.

7.45-9pm: Bell-ringing practice at St George's, Preshute.

Every Tuesday

10-11.30am: Christchurch. Friendship Club.

2.45pm: The Parlour, Christchurch. Women's Fellowship.

7.30-9pm: Bell-ringing practice at St Mary's, Marlborough.

Every Wednesday

10am: Jubilee Centre. Drop-in, Tea/Coffee. 12.30 Lunch.

1.30-3.30pm: Town Hall. Sunshine Club for the over 55s.

7.30-9pm: St Peter's Church. Marlborough Community Choir.

7.30-9pm: Bell-ringing practice at St John's. Mildenhall.

2-3pm St George's, Preshute (*every 2nd & 4th Wed*) Teddy Prayers & Picnic. A service for tea & cakes for U5's & their carers.

Every Thursday (or some Thursdays)

10am: Jubilee Centre. Drop-in, Tea/Coffee. 12.30 Lunch.

10:30-12 noon: Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. Singing for the Brain. Alzheimer's Support. 01225 776481. (*Every Thursday during term-time.*)

1.30-3.30pm: Wesley Hall, Christchurch. Macular Society (*last Thursday in the month*).

2pm Mildenhall Village Hall. Marlborough Floral Club. £30 a year membership. £5 guest. 520129. (*1st Thursday in the month*).

Every Friday

10-12 noon: Christchurch Crush Hall. Food bank and coffee morning.

Every 2nd Saturday

10-12 noon: Library. Marlborough & District Dyslexia Association. Drop-in advice. Helpline: 07729 452143.

2nd (Saturday)

7.30pm St Mary's Church. Marlborough Concert Orchestra: Winter Concert. £10 (£2 students).

3rd (Sunday)

7.30pm Kennet Valley Hall. Movie: 'Churchill' PG. £6.

4th (Monday)

2pm Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. Embroiderers' Guild. Surprise Speaker & Christmas Lunch. 861658.

5th (Tuesday)

6pm White Horse Gallery. Lecture by Jenny Lyall: 'A Short History of the

Colour Red'. £5.

7.15pm Town Hall. Live screening from ROH: 'The Nutcracker'. £15 in adv., £17.50 on door.

6th (*Wednesday*)

10-12 noon. The Merchant's House. Festive Coffee Morning. £5.

7.30pm Wesley Hall, Oxford St. WI Christmas & 8th Birthday Celebration & Christmas Canapes Demonstration by Sue Brady & Assistant.

9th (*Saturday*)

7.30pm St Mary's Church. Marlborough Concert Society. Concert: 'Christmas Celebration'. £8 (students £1, u16s free). In aid of Brighter Futures Radiotherapy Appeal.

10th (*Sunday*)

6.30pm St Peter's Church. Chamber Recital: Simon Crawford-Philips (piano), Katharine Gowers (violin), Amy Norrington (cello). £15 (£10 members of MBG & St Peter's Trust). NB early start.

11th (*Monday*)

11am Ellendune Hall, Wroughton. The Arts Society - Kennet and Swindon. Lecture by Clare Ford-Wille: 'Nativity in Art from Giotto to Picasso'. Guests welcome £7. 01793 840790.

7.15pm Bouverie Hall, Pewsey. Pewsey Vale Arts Society. AGM & Lecture by Peter Medhurst: 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'. 07775 683163.

7.30pm Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. National Trust Association: Winter Social.

13th (*Wednesday*)

Marlborough College: Michaelmas Term ends.

12.30pm 40 St Martins. Widows' Friendship Group Lunch. All welcome 514030.

7.45pm Wesley Hall, Oxford St. Gardening Club. Talk by Sally Bullock: 'Deck the Halls'.

16th (*Saturday*)

10am-4pm Marlborough College Norwood Hall. 'A Marlborough Christmas': market stalls, food & drink, musicians & choirs, Santa's Magic Garden. £3 (u12's free). In aid of Cancer Research, Prospect & Brighter Futures.

4pm Marlborough College Chapel. Carol Concert. Tickets £10 (u14's free) from David Dudley, Kim Vine, or on the door. In aid of Hope & Homes for Children.

8pm Christchurch, New Road. Marlborough Folk Roots. Concert: St Agnes Fountain. £18 from Sound Knowledge.

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17th (*Sunday*)

10.30am St John's Academy. Santa Fun Run. In aid of Prospect.

21st (*Thursday*)

St John's Academy: Start of Christmas Holidays.

January 2018 Calendar

3rd (*Wednesday*)

7.30pm Wesley Hall, Oxford St. WI. Talk by Rosemary Massie: 'Astrology & Birth Sign'.

4th (*Thursday*)

Marlborough College: Start of Lent Term.

St John's Academy: Start of Term 3.

7.30pm St Peter's Church. Concert: Mathilde Milwidsky (violin) & Somi Kim (piano). £10 (£8 members of MBG & St Peter's Trust).

8th (*Monday*)

2pm Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. Embroiderers' Guild. Talk by Valerie Threlfall: 'Secrets of the Honeymoon Suitcase 1850-Present Day'. 861658.

7.15pm Bouverie Hall, Pewsey. Pewsey Vale Arts Society. Lecture by Jane Gardiner: 'The Golden Age of Venetian Glass'. 07775 683163.

10th (*Wednesday*)

12.30pm 40 St Martins. Widows' Friendship Group Lunch. All welcome 514030.

7.45pm Wesley Hall, Oxford St. Gardening Club. Talk by Chris Smith: 'Dig for Victory'.

14th (*Sunday*)

3pm Ellis Theatre, Marl Coll. Concert: Craig Ogden (guitar). £20 (£10 students).

15th (*Monday*)

11am Ellendune Hall, Wroughton. The Arts Society - Kennet and Swindon. Lecture by Christopher Rogers: 'James Wyatt: Charlatan or Genius'. Guests welcome £7. 01793 840790.

16th (*Tuesday*)

7.15pm Town Hall. Live screening from RUH: 'Rigoletto'. £15 in adv., £17.50 on door.

25th (*Thursday*)

7.30pm Town Hall. Exhibition on screen: 'Cezanne: Portraits of a Life'. £12 in adv., £14 on door.

Amelia Earhart: the unsolved mystery Amelia Hicks

Amelia Earhart, the American pilot, was born in Atchison, Kansas on July 24th 1897. She was the first female pilot to fly solo across the Atlantic and also first to fly solo from Hawaii to the U.S. During one of her navigated flights around the globe, Earhart disappeared somewhere near or over the Pacific in July 1937 but plane wreckage was never found, making it still one of the most interesting unsolved mysteries of the twentieth century.

In World War One Amelia Earhart served as a Red Cross nurse in Toronto.

After the war she returned to America where she took her first plane ride in California in December 1920. She then passed her flight test in 1921 after taking lessons with a female flight instructor.



On June 1st 1937, Earhart and co-navigator Fred Noonan started their flight around the world, taking off from Oakland, California. On June 29th, they had reached New Guinea after flying a staggering 22,000 miles; they only had 7,000 miles left before returning back home.

On July 2nd, Earhart stopped to refuel; this was the last time Amelia Earhart was ever seen. Radio connection with the coastguard was lost and it seems that she had disappeared en route.



The U.S. President at the time, Franklin D. Roosevelt, announced a two week search for the pair. On July 19th, 1937 they were both declared lost at sea.

There have been many theories, the most common of which is that she crashed somewhere in the Pacific Ocean; it has been suggested that her plane lost fuel while she was searching for Howland Island, and that she crashed in the middle of the Ocean. Many expeditions have been sent out over the years to try and find Amelia's plane. High tech systems and deep-sea robots have all failed to find any plane wreckage.

The Gardner Island Hypothesis proposes that while flying to Howland Island, Earhart took a turn and landed on Gardner Island, 350 miles South West. A week after, a few navy planes flew over and appear to have said they noted some clues which could indicate that people had actually been living there. This means that they could have survived for days or even weeks before dying on the island.

Continued on p.22

News from the Churches – December 2017

Carol and Christmas Services:
please see pages 2 & 3 for the dates and times for the individual churches.

In December St Mary's Church will be hosting:

2nd December 7.30pm, Marlborough Concert Orchestra
9th December 7.30pm, Marlborough Choral Society
12th December 6.00pm, Mencap Carol Service
14th December 6.00pm, Beer and Carols
15th December 9.15am, Marlborough St Mary's School Nativity
19th December 7.00pm, St John's School Celebration



And at The Town Hall:

10th December 7.30pm, Macmillan Carol Service with the Kennet Vale Brass Band

Monthly Sunday Seniors Lunch Club

The Senior's Lunch Club will be held on 3rd December 2017 starting at 12.15pm in Christchurch, cost £7.50 for a two course meal and coffee. Further dates for your diary are: Sunday 14th January 2018 and Sunday 11th February 2018. To reserve a place please contact the Church Office at Christchurch 513701.



Women's Fellowship - All meetings at 2.45pm in Christchurch

December 2017 January 2018
5th Rev Heather Cooper (Christmas) *No meetings in January*
12th Carols & Mince Pies
February 2018
6th Eileen Gilbert (Women's World Day of Prayer)

Marlborough Churches Together Advent Service

Start the journey through Advent at our ecumenical service starting at 5.30pm in St George's Church, Preshute on Sunday 3rd December, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.



Marlborough Churches Together Fraternal Meetings

Take place at 12.45pm at Friends' Meeting House on Monday 4th December and Monday 8th January 2018. These meetings are open, please come along and join us or speak to the clergy for more information.

Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group (MAPAG)

Meets at The Friends' Meeting House on Monday 4th December, overview of the past year and Monday 8th January, Bring and Share Supper at 7.30pm. These are open meetings and all are very welcome.

Beer and Carols at St Mary's

6-7.30pm on Thursday 14th December. Sing your favourite carols around the piano, and enjoy local ale, mulled wine and mince pies. All welcome for an informal and social evening. Admission free. Donations for The Devizes Foodbank.

A Living Nativity

The churches of Marlborough Deanery invite you to Follow the Star - Saturday 16th December from 3.30pm. Beginning with the first scene in Aldbourne Memorial Hall - follow the well known Christmas story around the lovely village of Aldbourne, look out for local clergy and friends dressed as shepherds, angels and more. Free admission, programme with map available for £1 on the day. Refreshments available; a fun day out for all the family.



A Quieter Christmas - Service of Preparation

7.00pm on Wednesday 20th December will also be held in St Mary's Church. This service allows us to reflect through ministry, scripture and prayer, how God's word comes to shine light in to the darkest places of life. All welcome.

Teddy Prayers Sing-Along Nativity

3pm on Saturday 23rd December at St George's Preshute. Suitable for under 5s and their parents/carers. Contact Revd Miri Keen for more information.

Posada

Don't forget to look out for the Holy Family set travelling along the North side of Marlborough High Street and the three Kings travelling along the South side during December. The Holy Families will be brought together at the 3.00pm Crib Service on Christmas Eve in St Mary's.

Foodbank

The drop-in centre at Christchurch restarted in November. Run by volunteers it is open every Friday morning, as a collection point for those with Foodbank vouchers or call in to find out more. Don't forget those in need this winter; collection boxes for Foodbank donations are available in our churches, Waitrose and Tesco in Marlborough.

Hangout

Hangout meets every Thursday 7-8.30pm in The Wesley Hall. Open to the young people at St John's, Hangout provides a safe space to talk, play music, table football and more. Volunteer helpers are needed, time commitment to suit individuals. Please speak to the clergy for more information.



Methodist Covenant Service

The Covenant Service will be held at Christchurch on Sunday 7th January 2018 at 10.30am.

Continued on p.21



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Continued from p.19

St Mary's Day of Prayer

Time to reflect over the past year and prepare for the year ahead. St Mary's will be open, prayer stations will be available, on Saturday 13th January 2018 from 8am-5pm.

Farewell Service for Revd Miri Keen

Miri's last service with Marlborough Anglican Team will be at St George's, Preshute at 10.00am on Sunday 14th January 2018. All welcome.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: 18th - 25th January 2018

Material for 2018 was produced in the Caribbean and uses Exodus 15, a song of triumph over oppression, as the motif of the Week of Prayer. Each year Christian Aid provides the Go and Do action points for each of the daily reflections – linking into the important work of Christian Aid in the relief of poverty and advocacy of justice. More details from <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2018>.

Quaker Economics Reading Group

6 session reading group based in the New Economics Quaker Booklets exploring options for the future of our economy. Open to all, come along to the first session on Tuesday 9th January 2018 at Friends' Meeting House to find out more.

Annual St Peter's Quiz

Friday 19th January at 8pm at St Peter's Church

Book in advance at 01672 511725 or du.croz@btinternet.com

From the Registers

Baptism: 22 Oct – Phoebe Taylor at St George's

Departed:

5 Oct – Anna Anderson (71) formerly of Marlborough
St Mary's and Marlborough Cemetery

23 Oct – Alfred 'Fred' Hughes Harris (84) of Aldbourne Nursing Home,
Aldbourne St Mary's and Birtley Crematorium

8 Nov – Tom Seaman (71) of Glebe Farm, Mildenhall
St Mary's and Mildenhall Cemetery

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Searchers found artefacts such as a piece of glass which could have come from the window of Earhart's plane, some tools, a woman's shoe dating back from the 1930s, old cosmetics jars and bones which were said to have come from a human finger.

In 2017, sniffer dogs were sent to search the island for any more remains of Earhart's and Noonan's bones.

Even today, this tragic mystery from the twentieth century still fascinates us.

Family News

from Audrey Peck

Two of Pauline Berryman's sons were married this year. In June, Tim married Hilary in New York, where they now live; in November, Philip married Clare in London after which they returned to Vancouver where they are working until July 2018. Tim and Hilary met while working at an American summer camp for The Performing Arts. Tim now runs an after- school and weekend activity centre - amongst other jobs; Hilary re-homes unwanted dogs (which in the US is more complicated than it sounds!). Philip and Clare met in London. Philip is in online marketing, and Clare is a paediatric anaesthetist. Last July she was offered a year's secondment to The Women's Hospital in Vancouver so they are both enjoying time out there, cycling and skiing in between work!

A Thanksgiving Service for the life of **Sheila Davison** was held in St George's on Oct 10th. She had a happy childhood in spite of WWII and was a lively student at Eccles Grammar School. After an emergency teacher training course at Trent Park, Nottingham she taught primary children and especially enjoyed teaching deaf children. She also had a gift for proofreading. She met Peter at a friend's birthday party and they married in March 1949. Their son, Simon, plays cello for the Welsh National Opera and John lives in Marlborough, New Zealand. Their daughter, Sue, travels all over Europe working in TV engineering. Our deep sympathy to Peter and all the family.

Sophie Smithers and her partner **Ben Mead** have a baby son, Rory Ethan, a grandchild for Debbie and Gordon Smithers. Sophie started as a Saturday girl at W. H. Smiths while she was at St. John's and has worked full-time with the company here and then in Melksham where she lives now. Congratulations to Sophie and Ben.

Continued on p.26



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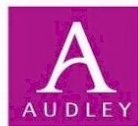
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Marlborough Churches Together

Usual Sunday service times

Christchurch, New Road (Methodist)

9.00am Worship

10.30am Morning Service with Junior Church & crèche

Society of Friends, Friends' Meeting House, The Parade

10.30am Meeting for Worship

St George's, Preshute (C of E)

8.00am Holy Communion (1st and 3rd Sundays)

10.00am All Age Service (3rd Sunday)

Parish Communion (other Sundays)

St John the Baptist, Minal (C of E)

8.00am Holy Communion BCP (2nd Sunday)

9.30am Parish Communion (1st & 3rd Sundays)

St Mary's, behind the Town Hall (C of E)

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP on 4th Sundays)

10.00am All Age Worship (1st Sunday):

Parish Communion, Junior Church & crèche on all other Sundays

5.30 pm Informal service (except on 1st Sunday)

St Thomas More, George Lane (Roman Catholic)

11.00 am Sung Mass (See also below)

Marlborough College Services are shown at the College Chapel

Weekday Services

St Mary's Holy Communion: 10.30 am Wednesday

St Thomas More Mass: 10.00 am Mon, Tues, Wed & Sat Holy Days: 10.00 am

St George's Tea Time followed by Evening Prayer : 4.30pm Wednesday

Teddy Prayers and Picnic: 2-3pm every 2nd & 4th Wed

Continued from p.22

At **Jean Ennis'** funeral at Kingsdown Crematorium on Oct 13th her family and friends remembered a loving Mum at whose house in Isbury Rd they had had such happy times, especially at Christmas. Born in 1935 in Marlborough, with twin sister, Janet, and with six other brothers and sisters, she passed the 11+ but her father died and she couldn't go to the Grammar School. She worked in the Rope Factory and the Tannery, then enjoyed making costumes for Pelham Puppets and later became a seamstress at Savernake Hospital. She met Matty Ennis, an Irish stable lad at a 'do' in the Town Hall. They married in 1956 in the Catholic Church on the Common. The reception was paid for by her brother, Ronnie, who had just won the Pools. Matty took the family on wonderful song-filled annual holidays in Ireland. They went on trips to Weymouth and to dances in the British Legion in St Martins. Jean loved knitting for the family and was always there to look after the grandchildren. She will be sadly missed by her children, Chris, Stephen, Teresa and Shaun and their partners and by her grandchildren, Tom, Harry, Max, Tom, Donna, Emma and Bronny and by her seven great grandchildren. Our sympathy to them all.

Bell-Ringing News

In November on Remembrance Sunday the bells were rung half-muffled at all three of the Marlborough team churches, at Mildenhall, Marlborough and Preshute.

To ring church bells we need one ringer for each rope; without ringers the bells would become silent, just as they were during WW2 when they were only to be rung as a warning of invasion, or when peace was declared.

Each of the towers needs to continually recruit people to learn, to prevent the bells becoming silent. We badly need new recruits. If you are interested in learning to ring, or are a lapsed ringer who can come back, please contact one of the Tower Captains for more information.

Once you have been taught bell handling you can the start to take the first step of ringing rounds on practice night and before Sunday Services.

Tom Otley, Tower Captain, St John the Baptist, Mildenhall – 01672 516506

Dorothy Blythe, Tower Captain, St Mary's, Marlborough - 01672 512993

Richard Metters, Tower Captain, St George's, Preshute – 01672 514714

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The Revd Canon Andrew Studdert-Kennedy

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Team Rector, Marlborough Anglican Team

~~~~~

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## Every Month

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**Contributions and comments** from readers are welcome. Please send articles and letters to the Monthly Editor, other notices or announcements to the Compiler.

All items for the February issue by **Tuesday 9th January**.

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