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# TOWER<sub>AND</sub>TOWN

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**Marlborough's Green Spaces**

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JULY 2018 50P

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# TOWER<sup>AND</sup>TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

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## Marlborough's Green Spaces

How many towns, I wonder, have such a wealth of lovely green spaces open to the public within its borders? And, as a bonus, most of these places have a long and fascinating history which adds to my enjoyment when I walk through them. I hope readers will enjoy being reminded of the backgrounds when you next visit Cooper's Meadow, the Priory Gardens, the Old Graveyard, St Peter's or the Green.

This list doesn't exhaust the pleasant open spaces – there are the large open recreational areas such as the Common and the recreation ground on the Mead. Both of these have rich histories, but that can wait for another day. There are also the very attractive Wye Gardens, the churchyard of St Mary's and the stunning newly developed Stonebridge Meadow

The month of July seems the right time of year to draw our attention to these spaces – the warm evenings and early mornings are a particularly delightful time to walk among them – and even better if there is a dog at home to share your enjoyment.

**Sara Holden - Editor**



*Cooper's Meadow*

# The Town's Riverside

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The town centre riverside loops between the old Rope Walk in the Parade, through Kennet Place and Cooper's Meadow, past the Old Boathouse (now the Mustard Seed), between the car park and the Priory Gardens, until it disappears between houses in River Park and George Lane on its way to Treacle Bolly. In more utilitarian days, most of this was industrial – corn was ground at the Town Mill where there is now housing, animals bred for local butchering grazed the meadows, and small businesses populated the many yards which ran between the High St. and the river.

**Maurice and Rosemary Cooper** (whose family owned and worked the meadows) remembers this period well:



*Old agricultural buildings seen across flooded water meadows from Skurray's Garage site.*



*The old town mill*

Cooper's Meadow was originally one of three meadows on this site, the others being where the houses are in George Lane and Skurray's Garage and the public car park.

They were managed by my grandfather/my father and my uncle in the traditional water meadow way. The meadow would be floated (flooded) in the winter for about three weeks. This would enable their sheep and cattle to get an early bite; this meant that they could graze in April for about three to four weeks, which is earlier than a traditional meadow. My grandfather would often walk cattle from Savernake market through the forest and then graze in the field to be fattened up before going to our slaughterhouse in Angel Yard.

The carcasses were then butchered or sold on Cooper's butcher's shop Number 7 Kingsbury St (now a restaurant) and then at larger premises in numbers 1 and 2 The Parade.

The entrance to Cooper's Meadow was down Chestnut Drive, which was at the side of the little lodge on George Lane. This then led to a stable block, a granary





*Pig carcasses, Angel Yard*

and barn which were obviously used by the family. Hay could be grown throughout the summer and if hay was made, sometimes my grandfather let the grasses and flowers seed before cutting so that the meadow was reseeded the natural way. In 1987 when the field was handed over to Kennet District Council members of the Town Council and friends transferred some of the wild flower plants from the play area to the eastern end of the field so the tradition could continue.

In late summer the meadows were once again flooded to encourage a fresh flush of grass. Then a few days before the sheep fair on the Common, sheep were brought to town and kept in pens in the meadow before being walked up Herd St to be sold. After the sale, some would be returned to the meadow to be collected.

When transferring the plants in 1987 under the guidance of a water meadow expert we were informed of why the trees were there. Sadly not all were there for purely scientific reasons. When I was about seven or eight years of age I was playing cowboys and Indians in the field. My mother said we could not have supper until we tidied up the sticks we were playing with. We stuck them in the ground and some of them are still growing! Even the expert could see the funny side of the story.

### **Transformation, thanks to ARK and to the residents of Kennet Place**

As the industry disappeared, the riverside was left in a neglected and environmentally degraded state which required a huge effort of transformation by professionals and volunteers to produce today's stunning river frontage where dogwalkers, students, young families, backpackers, solitary readers enjoying a sunny bench and duck feeders (strictly forbidden) mingle during daylight hours from 6 o'clock to 10 pm.

The major work was undertaken by Action for the River Kennet (ARK) between 2009 and 2012. Following a detailed study it was decided to alter slightly the course of the river to make it more curved, to reinforce the banks and plant them with

more appropriate species, to enclose much of the meadow and plant wildflowers (managed by small grazing herds of sheep and picturesque Belted Galloway cattle). In 2012 a "fish ladder" was built to enable trout to move more easily up and down the river in times of drought. (From the ARK website.)



*ARK volunteers*

*Continued overleaf*

# The Town's Riverside (continued)

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## **Val Compton tells of a complementary project**

The Waterfront Garden in Kennet Place is a serendipitous little project that came about quite unexpectedly, when the flood wall was installed and we had a widened grass verge. As a neighbourhood, we were still feeling pretty miserable about losing sight of our beautiful river – a wall blocking our view was really not what we had wanted. However, neither was the thought of flood water in our houses very appealing.

After the oak clad installation was completed, some top quality turf was laid and we set about cheering ourselves up. We started with a communal daffodil planting session as soon as the last truck drove out of Kennet Place. A couple of flowering tubs were added to enhance the manhole covers. I began to dream -- possibilities emerged in my mind for a communal garden.

Gradually, since January 2014, we have formed a group, written a constitution and raised funds endlessly. Having been given permission to work on both sides of the wall, we liaised with Action for the River Kennet, who foraged for suitable marginal plants we wanted and after much research, we also purchased wild flower turf. We were duly rewarded with an increase in wildlife which included water vole and kingfishers along with the ducks, heron, little egret, moorhens and coots. In 2016 we shared first prize for Southwest in Bloom's most outstanding environmental project. Result!

In the cultivated garden, we have beds of perennials, a bike planter, shrubs, three stunning displays (supplied by Superior Plants) and more. There are two little tables for anyone to use for picnics, or just to sit by the river and relax, plus a community table for Kennet Place residents to get together.

We love where we live – and hope you will visit us!



*The riverside at Kennet Place*

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Behind the Jubilee Centre and the flats in the Priory lie the Priory Gardens – an oasis of peace in the centre of town, enjoyed by a wide age range from the elderly Priory residents to St John’s students on their lunch breaks.



The site gets its name from a medieval priory founded by the “White Friars” or Carmelites who were granted the site shortly before 1315. Unlike other monastic orders in the Town, the Carmelites were mendicants who relied on the generosity of townspeople to meet their basic needs. (Is it appropriate that the present building serves as social housing?)

The Editor was pleased to enjoy a walk through the garden with Joe, a volunteer at the Jubilee Centre, who is a nature lover and very knowledgeable about the various fine trees in the garden. He reminded me that there is a particularly fine specimen yew and that yew trees had played an important role in the Battle of Agincourt which would have taken place during the lifetime of the Carmelite house. The battle was won for the English thanks to the revolutionary new weapon, the long-bow, made of yew wood. Joe, now in retirement, remembers walking past the garden when he was a schoolboy but not able to come in because it was then private property. The garden was donated to Kennet District Council in the 1930s by Mrs. Thomasine Clay, whose generous gift is noted on a stone in the rose garden.

The garden makes the perfect setting for large scale Town events such as the recent puppet festival and the Civil War re-enactment campsite. When the Jazz Festival was active it accommodated a large marquee.



*The Priory Gardens hosted the Civil War Society re-enactment of an army campsite in 2014*



*The Puppet Festival honouring the Pelham Puppets, 2017*

# The Old Graveyard:

Kim Wakeham

The 1853 Burial Act required the closure of the overcrowded church graveyards and to establish and maintain a new cemetery, away from water courses and where people were living in an attempt to control the spread of infectious diseases such as cholera and typhoid.

Known locally as the Old Graveyard, The Municipal Borough Cemetery was established in 1854 on former farm land donated by the Marquess of Ailesbury and located in the parish of Preshute. The Old Graveyard was opened against a backdrop of social change towards bereavement and commemoration alongside increasing awareness of sanitation and disease.

To plan and establish the cemetery, a Burial Board was established (consisting of members of the borough, the Town Council and the board of Guardians (The Church). It is likely that a significant influence on the design was JC Loudon who wrote a pamphlet titled 'On the Laying Out, Planting, and Managing of Cemeteries (1843)', as the layout and planting within the Old Graveyard reflects Loudon's view that a graveyard should be a place of reflection and tranquility.

The layout of the Old Graveyard was carefully planned. Let's look around.

If you approach the Old Graveyard from the common, you are using the St. Mary's entrance. If you approach it from Leaze Road, you are using the St. Peter's and St. Paul's entrance. Inside, it is divided into four areas.

Stand at the grass 'T' junction, between the two entrances, look up the graveyard, the New Graveyard should be directly in front of you. There used to be a large lych gate here. Beyond where the gate was, the area of gravestones to the right (east) commemorate people who lived in St. Mary's parish, whilst those on the left (west) commemorate those who lived and died in St Peter's and St Paul's parish.

In the large green area in the centre there used to be a small mortuary chapel, which was demolished in 1950s.

Now turn around. On your left (east), there is a large area without gravestones. This is the final resting place for people who died whilst in the Workhouse (located next to the Old Graveyard), or who did not have the financial means for a burial. On your right (west), the rather overcrowded area of gravestones is the non-conformist section.

The Old Graveyard closed in 1924, but it provides a wealth of information about the inhabitants of Marlborough including their trades, religion, beliefs and



*The Old Mortuary Chapel c1900*

Continued on page 12

# The Victorian Cemetery Today: Margaret Rose

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What first drew me to the Victorian Cemetery? I think it has to be the magnificent Cedar of Lebanon which helps to give an air of grandeur, also the 581 gravestones with many local family and business names; some are grand monuments and headstones with iron railing, pronouncing how you were perceived in life and your status in death, many being past Mayors of Marlborough.



The fact that a large part of the cemetery has been allowed to revert back to nature adds to its charm, with a profusion of snowdrops and daffodils in the spring. The exception is the Paupers Grave where a lone Sarsen Stone denotes the resting place of over 800 persons. For these poor souls, mainly from St. Luke's Workhouse, this was their common grave. The area now is just a large stretch of grass mowed regularly by the Marlborough Town Council. In 2014 we had an old fallen tree, and with the Town Council's mechanical digger we used sculptured pieces to make a foxglove dell around the Paupers Grave which gives a living warmth and enhances that rather stark area.

The Friends of the Victorian Cemetery group started in 2014 with volunteers made up of Town Councillors and locals who met then once a month on a Sunday morning to help clear around the graves. They strimmed the undergrowth and tackled briars, overgrown ivy and stinging nettles which were endangering the stones. They also painted the wrought iron gates.

Since then, slow but steady progress is being made towards our goal of restoring the site. Though we can never turn the clock back to its former glory we can ensure that this beautiful Victorian Cemetery is a living space for wild life and is a peaceful environment for all to sit and think, not just about the living, but pay homage to the dead .



*The Paupers' Grave*

For more information follow this link:  
<http://www.marlborough-tc.gov.uk/consultation-community/friends-of-the-victorian-cemetery>

This collaborative exhibition by Mark Wickham and his daughter Louise Wickham has been spectacular - the gallery has literally been glowing with delight.

Mark Wickham's oil paintings are a celebration of the everyday. Inspired by



Italian Renaissance artist Piero Della Francesca, the immensely pleasing mathematical finish in Mark's work reflects Francesca's famous geometric strategies and employment of the 'golden ratio'. There is no symbolism in any of Mark's paintings - the subjects are intended to be just as they are seen. The arbitrary choice of objects is intensely satisfying because of their shape, texture, reflection and the light

which shines upon them. Indeed light, and how it interacts with the objects is perhaps the most important element in this artist's work. Although the pieces are contrived in construction, they precisely celebrate the delight of the everyday. Each painting is calm, still, spacious, peaceful, contemplative, captivating and beautiful.

Louise Wickham's ceramics are the perfect companion to her father's paintings. Indeed they are often featured in his work. Deceptively complex, these hand built coil pots are decorated with repeat patterns in coloured slip, then burnished. No two pots are the same. The uniqueness of each ceramic is due to the different colour and pattern combinations that create optical effects. This is something Louise is particularly interested in, as she works from a large collection of computer generated images, as well as creating and developing her own designs. The pots vary in size and shape; they are all incredibly tactile, aesthetically pleasing and extremely elegant.



I do hope you all had the chance to come and see this exhibition: it was one not to be missed!

Mark Wickham *Paintings* and Louise Wickham *Ceramics* were at The White Horse Gallery between June 6th - June 30th 2018.

*For another photo, see page 19*



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*continued from p 8*

social standing. Many of the original features can still be seen including the ornate iron railings around many of the graves and the perimeter sarsen wall built by Frees.

Please visit and enjoy the Old Graveyard, it was designed to be a place of peace and tranquility, but do watch out for the uneven surfaces and take care as many of the gravestones and memorials are becoming rather fragile.

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## St Peter's Churchyard:

David Du Croz

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But for the efforts of the likes of Jake Seamer 40 years ago there might be no green space at all at the west end of the High Street - just a large tarmacked roundabout supposedly easing the flow of traffic on the A4. Thankfully concerned citizens rallied to save not only the church from destruction, but also to preserve a space of green peace in the midst of the busy-ness of 21<sup>st</sup> century traffic that is St Peter's churchyard.

Today the churchyard is managed by the volunteers of St Peter's Trust. A gardening team of seven or eight of us work on a rotational basis ably and professionally assisted by Richard Beale. Daffodils followed by geraniums feature along the east end of the church, and nearby flanking the path is a fine rose-bed, some of whose plants it is said go back over 20 years. The east end of the churchyard however is dominated by large trees the largest of which is a holm oak, said by a recent visitor to be in much better health than the ones he had recently seen at Kew. The only downside of this tree is that it sheds its leaves throughout the year!

Alongside the entrance to the church is a bed of annuals and perennials providing a colourful welcome to the many visitors to the church. There is more open space at the west end of the church which features a rose-bed planted in 2002 in memory of John O'Regan, first Secretary of the Trust. Another Founder member, Dr Tim Maurice, is commemorated with a crab apple at the east end. There is also a fine lilac bush and laburnum tree, and at the farthest limit of the churchyard a recent innovation - a wildflower bed.

Burials in the churchyard ceased in the 1850s. However, records still provide us with some interesting insights. Marlborough's public houses appear to have been dangerous places in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries as shown by the death of Richard Holmes who died from a fall from a pear tree at the King's Arms, and Jane Sanders and Edith Dobson who died the following year, killed by a "sudden fall of loft at the White Hart". In the 18<sup>th</sup> century there was a spate of deaths from smallpox.

# The Green Today and Yesterday

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Although now, in the parlance of estate agents, The Green is a “sought after” residential area, in years gone by it was a hive of industrial and agricultural activity. It was also the hub of roads which led to Ramsbury and beyond via St Martins, and to the West Country along a long-lost road which ran above the High St (via Silverless St and across Kingsbury St) and the long-distance north south road.

It is believed that it may have originated as a Saxon settlement but this is not clear in the absence of archaeological evidence.

## **A recently-arrived resident of The Green tells us what drew her here:**

Ever since I was twelve years old, I have wanted to live in one of the thirty four properties fronting The Green in Marlborough. On 8 May 2018, The Sunday Times listed Marlborough as being one of the best places in the UK to live with the "best address" being Silverless Street and the Green, or a modern home in College Fields". I feel proud to live on The Green. It is simply magical.

The community is friendly and welcoming, the architecture is inspirational, the skyline is exciting especially at sunrise and sunset, and the avenue of trees which date from around 1840 provides an additional feeling of grandeur. I feel particularly lucky to have an incredible view of St Mary's, and look forward to hearing the bells ringing every Tuesday evening.

Marlborough Town Council states that "The Green is an open space available for everyone to enjoy, whether dog walking, playing games, picnicking or simply sitting on one of the benches and watching the world go by". In addition to the incredible architecture, this is perhaps one of the main reasons why I think The Green is magical. Hearing children playing, seeing many different breeds of dog running around, seeing people sitting on one of the benches drinking coffee, seeing young children practising their gymnastics, seeing people smiling and chatting, hearing the birdsong, and watching people stop to take photographs is enchanting.

To me, being able to live in such a historic part of Marlborough is perfect.



*The Green: then a hive of industry; today a peaceful place to live*

# What's on in July

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## Regular events

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### **Every Monday**

7.30pm: Christchurch. Marlborough Choral Society.

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

### **Every Tuesday**

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 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wed*)  
Teddy Prayers & Picnic. A service, 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. (*1<sup>st</sup> Thursday in the month*).

### **Every Friday**

10-12 noon: Christchurch

### **Every 2nd Saturday**

10-12 noon: Library. Marlborough Association. Drop-in advice.

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## July calendar

### **30<sup>th</sup> June (Saturday) to 6<sup>th</sup> July**

10am-4pm St Peter's Church, Marlborough celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> birthday.

July (various dates): Marlborough Open Studios. Brochure from White Horse, Marlborough. Venues in the High Street, Marlborough. [www.marlboroughopenstudios.co.uk](http://www.marlboroughopenstudios.co.uk)

### **1<sup>st</sup> (Sunday)**

6pm St Peter's Church. Marlborough. Preacher: Rev Canon Keith. Avebury Vocal Ensemble.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> (Monday)**

2pm Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. Guild. Talk by Dr Susan King (of Needlework): 'Imperial Textiles: a colourful history of textile design'.

### **4<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)**

7.30pm Wesley Hall, Oxford. Chambers: 'The Baking Club'.

### **5<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)**

2pm Mildenhall Village Hall. Floral Demonstration by Marie M. Competition: 'Sunshine'. A. 861279.

7<sup>th</sup> (*Saturday*).

1-10pm Jubilee Field Axford. Shuttle service from Marlborough.



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### **ly (Friday)**

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annual Service of Evensong.  
h Lamdin. Singing by the  
All welcome.

Lockeridge. Embroiderers'  
Kay-Williams (Royal School  
Purple to Blue Denim – the  
s'. Everyone welcome.

rd St. WI. Talk by Dylan  
members?. Guests welcome.

all. Floral Club.  
Monday: 'Juke Box Melody'.  
Annual sub £30, Guests £5.

rd. Axford Beer Festival.  
borough.

www.axfordbeerfest.com or 519331.

7.30pm St Mary's Church, Great Bedwyn. Bedwyn  
Millenium Choir: 'The Armed Man' (A Mass for  
Peace) by Karl Jenkins. Tickets in adv. from  
carolineeqs@btopenworld.com Adults £8, children  
under 16 free.

### **8<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) to 15<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)**

10am-4.30pm St Peter's Church. Guild of Wiltshire  
Artists' Summer Exhibition. Entry free.

### **9<sup>th</sup> (Monday)**

Marlborough College Summer School. Week 1.  
11am Ellendune Community Centre, Wroughton. The  
Arts Society: Kennet & Swindon. Lecture by Nicholas  
Henderson: 'The Paston Treasure' (rescheduled from  
Dec 2017). Guests welcome (£7) 01793 840790.

### **11<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)**

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

### **12<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)**

8.30am-5pm Burbage Village Hall. Wolfhall  
Information & History Displays including Gala Café.  
Entry free.

7.30pm Burbage Village Hall. Talk with slides by  
Graham Bath: 'Wolfhall & the Seymours'. £3.50 (incl.  
5 raffle tickets). Bar. In aid of Wolfhall Garden  
Restoration Project.

7.30pm Maizey Lodge, Ogbourne Maizey SN8 1RY.  
The Miracle Theatre: 'The Cherry Orchard. Gates  
open at 6pm for picnics. Bring your own chairs.  
Tickets in adv (512125): £14, Children u16 £7, family  
£38 (2A,2C). In aid of Home Start.

7.30pm St Mary's Church, Great Bedwyn. Summer  
Concert: Pelleas Ensemble (viola, flute, harp). £15,  
£12 (members). Children free. 870970.

**16<sup>th</sup> (Monday)**

Marlborough College Summer School. Week 2.

7.30pm Kennet Valley Hall. National Trust Association. Summer Social.

**20<sup>th</sup> (Friday)**

St John's Academy. End of Term.

Gardening Association. Visit to Waterperry Gardens.

**23<sup>rd</sup> (Monday)**

Marlborough College Summer School. Week 3.

**30<sup>th</sup> (Monday)**

Marlborough College Summer School. Week 4.

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## Foodbank Centre in Marlborough: Ann Yates

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Marlborough Foodbank Centre was reopened last November with the support of Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group (MAPAG) and under the auspices of the Devizes Foodbank, a registered charity operating as part of the Trussell Trust's UK Foodbank network.

We are based at Christchurch and open every Friday from 10am - 12 midday. I'm very grateful to Christchurch for their support, the use of their comfortable coffee area and space for storage of boxes and for the volunteers who give of their time so willingly.

There has been a slow start but we are beginning to see an increase in numbers. One of our major problems is transport. We need to bring food boxes from Devizes to Christchurch. Many clients also need help getting the food boxes from Christchurch to their home. We have a number of volunteers who can offer this transport.

The opportunity to network with community organisations and agencies has led to more referrals and is also helping us to build up a clearer picture of what support is available in the community.

At the recent Devizes Foodbank AGM it was noted that the principal reasons for people in the area needing food assistance were delays or changes to benefits. People are sometimes surprised to hear that there is a need for this in a wealthy area like Marlborough and its surrounding villages. But the poverty is there, hidden amongst the wealth.

How can you help?

Donate food at Waitrose or Tesco. A list of what is needed

*Continued*

can be seen at the Foodbank collection point so have a look at this before you shop. Donate food through the local churches or drop into Christchurch on a Friday morning. Donate financially at: [mydonate.bt.com/charities/devizesfoodbank](http://mydonate.bt.com/charities/devizesfoodbank).

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## Marlborough Churches Together

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### Usual Sunday Service times

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#### **Christchurch, New Road (Methodist)**

10.30am Morning Service with 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 Sunday)

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 and 3rd Sunday)

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

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP on 4th Sunday)

10.00am All Age Worship (1st Sunday); Parish Communion and Junior Church and crèche on all other Sundays

5.30pm Informal service except on 1st Sunday.

#### **St Thomas More, George Lane (Roman Catholic)**

11.00am Sung Mass (See also below)

**Marlborough College Services** are shown at the College Chapel

### Weekday Services

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**St Mary's** Holy Communion: 10.30am Wednesday

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

**St George's** Tea Time followed by Evening Prayer: 4.30pm Weds.  
Teddy Prayers and Picnic: 2-3pm every 2nd & 4th Wed

*The more things change, the more they stay the same .....*

*Chekhov's bitter-sweet comedy*

## ***The Cherry Orchard***

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

in the garden at Maizey Lodge,

Ogbourne Maizey nr. Marlborough SN8 1RY

Performance starts 7.30pm (whatever the weather!)

Gates open from 6.00pm for picnics. Bring your own chairs.

Bar/coffee/ice creams/W.C.

Tickets: Adults £14.00 Children (under 16) £7.00 Family £38.00 (2A 2C)

Tickets in advance only 01672 – 512125 / [maizey50@gmail.com](mailto:maizey50@gmail.com)  
in aid of Home-Start Kennet

### **Summer Concert - St Mary's Great Bedwyn**

Tuesday 3rd July 7.30 (doors and bar 7.00)

### **The Choir of Gonville and Caius College Cambridge**

Various works including Fauré's Requiem

### **Kennet Community Transport**

Can you help? We need occasional volunteer drivers when our full time 5-days-a-week driver is on holiday or sick. You would drive a smart Peugeot Boxer taking charming old people to and from the Jubilee Centre.

And if you are really gallant, we could also do with someone not yet 70 on our small committee.

Please contact: Roger Hagerty (540698) or Alexander Kirk Wilson (513861)

#### **AXFORD BEER FESTIVAL**

**SATURDAY JULY 7th 2018**

**JUBILEE FIELD, AXFORD**

Music from Echo, Bodgit and Scarper, Rohan Ball and more.

Shuttle service available from Ramsbury and Marlborough.

For more information & tickets go to [www.axfordbeerfest.com](http://www.axfordbeerfest.com)



# Marlborough Church Contacts

---

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*Assistant Chaplain, Marlborough College*

**The Revd Heather Cooper**

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*Associate Minister, Marlborough Anglican Team*

**The Revd Tim Novis**

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---

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Silverless Street, SN8 1JQ*



*Mark and Louise Wickham: Paintings and Ceramics; at the White Horse Gallery, June 2018*

**Christine Etheridge** and family, have suffered the loss of her well known and popular husband **John**. Christine met John on the Old Kent Road where he was a publican in the Green Man. Christine (who is originally from Marlborough), and John moved back from Swindon 33 years ago, living first in London Road and then Barnfield. All three sons Tom, Harry and Max were born and brought up in Marlborough. John went on to run three small businesses in the town, ASAP building, Spirals hairdressing and Bytes café now known as Mercers. Bytes was always a hub of activity and had a definite community feel about it, as John was very interested in people's lives and liked to help out where he could. John was passionate about football, and when the boys were young he set up soccer schools in Marlborough and became a scout for Bristol Rovers. He coached many young men and women and his presentation nights at the football club were legendary, full of fun and music. John also helped raise money for local charities such as St Mary's playgroup, and was a well-known figure as Postman Pat or Lenny the Letter. Christine and John travelled as extensively as they could, despite his increasing illness and recently enjoyed an amazing holiday in India where John became friends with their driver. He would have been 62yrs old on the 4<sup>th</sup> June. Our deepest sympathy to all of the family.

Vera Hamblin is proud of her granddaughter, **Simone Hamblin**, who has secured an apprenticeship in project management with London Transport. She is spending the summer touring North America. She went to Easton Royal and St John's Schools. Well done Simone!

**Fr John Blacker** was ordained in the Catholic church 50 years ago. He studied at Saint Sulpice, Paris and was ordained in the Pro-Cathedral of the Holy Apostles in Bristol which has since been replaced by the very modernist Clifton Cathedral. Fr John came to St Thomas More eight years ago and is loved by his congregation for his inclusive, caring relationship with everyone. He follows American Football and is a keen aviation enthusiast. We wish him good luck and many more years of ministry.

Congratulations to **Alison Neilson**, who celebrated her 100th Birthday on Tuesday 19th June, with family and friends. Her children, Catherine and Hamish, came from foreign lands (USA and Scotland respectively) to celebrate the event along with members of their families. Ian Neilson (her late husband) spent many years editing Tower & Town.



Town Councillors and their friends and families are seen planting wild flowers on Cooper's Meadow in 1987 – a prize bottle of champagne will go to the reader who can identify correctly the most faces. Send entries to the editor by email or to 4 Old Lion Court, High St., SN8 1HQ.

## Waste Time With God: Father John Blacker

---

The summer season is already with us, whatever the weather. A time to be going away on holiday, a time to break up from school, college, university, a time to stay home, a time to contemplate where we are, a time of prayer too.

"What do you feel when you pray?" When this question was put to the late Cardinal Hume during an interview with a journalist, Hume replied: "Oh, I just keep plugging away. At best it's like being in a dark room with someone you love. You can't see them but you know they're there". The mystical text of *The Cloud of the Unknowing* put it this way:

*In the beginning it is usual to feel nothing but a kind of darkness about your mind, or as it were a cloud of unknowing. You will seem to know nothing and to feel nothing except a naked intent toward God in the depths of your being. You will feel frustrated, for your mind will be unable to grasp Him, and your heart will not relish the delight of His love. But learn to be at home in the darkness. Return to it as often as you can, letting your spirit cry out to Him whom you love.*

Prayer is not so much me talking to God as God being present to me - as a child once remarked "I think God gave us two ears and only one mouth so we can do twice as much listening!" or like that of a young adult slowly recovering from drug and alcohol addiction: "God, I can't concentrate on You, so You'll just have to concentrate on me!"

May each month and each moment of each month, be a contemplation-time, to try to waste time with God, for we are never too old to learn of the ways of a loving God.

Marlborough gardeners and art lovers will be delighted to know that the bi-annual Friends of the Garden sculpture exhibition is returning to its original home at Urchfont Manor from 22 June to 8 July. For many years Urchfont Manor was the County's residential learning college but in 2013 it passed into private hands and Friends of the Garden exhibitions were held in several other equally impressive sites.

The present owners are undertaking a major redesign of the garden with Chelsea gold winning design team Buono-del Gazerwitz. Their remit was for a design in keeping with the age of the house but with a 21<sup>st</sup> century twist. The result includes a clipped beech spiral maze, a sweeping mown path around an old orchard to a wildflower meadow, and a reflecting pool backed by clipped yew. Traditionally, many of these features would have incorporated statuary. Today these viewpoints, alcoves, parterres and other elements provide a stunning backdrop for the installation of contemporary sculpture. The forthcoming exhibition of over 100 sculptures will complement this backdrop and demonstrate how sympathetically placed sculpture can introduce a wonderfully creative dynamic to a garden.

Open from 22 June until 8 July from 11am until 6pm (closed Mondays and Tuesdays). Entry £5. Urchfont Manor, Wiltshire, SN10 4RF. For more details visit [www.friendsofthegarden.org.uk](http://www.friendsofthegarden.org.uk)

The Friends of the Garden is a voluntary organisation with the objective of promoting contemporary sculpture to a wider public by organising exhibitions in private gardens in Wiltshire. We also support sculptors through a biennial bursary programme. Both parts of our work are undertaken in partnership with local charity Pound Arts [www.poundarts.org.uk](http://www.poundarts.org.uk) .

Contact for information:

Lesley Andrews 01672 540180; [admin@friendsofthegarden.org.uk](mailto:admin@friendsofthegarden.org.uk)

Sophie Moysey 01249 701628; [sophie.moysey@poundarts.org.uk](mailto:sophie.moysey@poundarts.org.uk)



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# NEWS from the Churches

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**Congratulations** to Fr John Blacker, who celebrated 50 years ordained ministry within the Catholic church on 29<sup>th</sup> June. There will be a Golden Jubilee Celebration Mass on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm in St Thomas More church.

## Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group

Meet on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 7.30pm at Quaker Meeting House and welcome speaker Tom Wilkes of Swindon Equality Group.



## Women's Fellowship

Meets on Tuesdays at Christchurch at 2.45pm

3<sup>rd</sup> July A.G.M.

10<sup>th</sup> July Social

They will then have a summer break and re-start on 4<sup>th</sup> September.

## 'The Angel and the Fallen' Concert

At Salisbury Cathedral on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm.

The evening seeks to emphasise the tragic effects of war and honour our service personnel in the difficult tasks they faced during WW1 and still face to secure peace in our world. Tickets, from £15 each with all profits to the Royal British Legion, can be obtained at: [www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/events/angel-fallen-concert](http://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/events/angel-fallen-concert)

## Sunday Lunch Club

8<sup>th</sup> July at Christchurch, 12.30. £7.50 for 3 course meal. Book with Christchurch office (513701) by Friday 6<sup>th</sup>.



## Messy Church

On 8<sup>th</sup> July at St Mary's at 10.00am in a change to the normal communion service, we are pleased to welcome Martyn Payne to speak at our service. Martyn has been working with Lucy Moore for the last 10 years leading the team overseeing Messy Church as it has spearheaded events around the UK and internationally. He will speak about some of his experiences and let us try out some Messy church activities.



We will run our second Messy church event of the year on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July at St Mary's between 4 and 6 pm.

## Mustard Seed Author Evening

with Kate Hitchens on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July, 7.30pm at Mustard Seed.

Kate Hitchens studied English, Religious Studies and Philosophy at Lancaster University. She worked for various organisations in London, including



the General Synod of the Church of England and completed a part-time Masters in Postmodern Literatures in 1996. In her novels she explores identity. Come and find out what motivates the author and the format she has chosen to write in.

### Study Group

In Mustard Seed on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> July ,7.30 to 9pm. *What is Christianity?* by Rowan Williams is the third in a series of Study Groups led by Janneke Blokland.

### Year 6 Leavers' Services

will be held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July for the children transferring from Preshute and MSM primary schools to St John's and other secondary schools this autumn – a significant rite of passage. MSM's service is at 9.30am in St Mary's Church and Preshute's at 1.30pm at St George's Church.

### Pub Philosophy

On Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> July at 7pm in the Marlborough Summer School Marquee to discuss *Science, because we can!?* Science is about exploring and discovering the unknown. Whether it is advances in nuclear physics, human cloning or artificial intelligence, all progress in science brings both unknown benefits and risks.

We will discuss of the ethical issues in modern science, see where the boundaries may be, and what we can learn from the past as we look to the future.

Foodbank Centre in Marlborough – see article on page 16

### Quiet Garden

The Quiet Garden at Glebe House, Minal is open (by calling 01672 512665 beforehand) to anyone who would like time for peace and reflection throughout the summer months.

### Coffee, Cake and Chat

An informal coffee morning after the school drop-off during term-time on Mondays 9am-10.30am at The Youth and Community Centre, St Margaret's Mead, Marlborough.

We are looking for volunteers to help run this group and also to provide cakes/biscuits. To register your interest or to find out more please contact Simon Mills: [simon@clatford.org.uk](mailto:simon@clatford.org.uk)

### Filling Station

Filling Station will not be meeting in July or August but will start again in September.



## Future Events :-

### Free Friday lunches

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For families with children on free school meals, there are substantial additional costs during the summer holiday. During August, St Mary's Church and MAPAG would like to support families by offering free packed lunches on Fridays.

Families will be able to sign up before the school holidays, and pick up their lunches free of cost on Fridays in August at Christchurch, which is also hosting the Foodbank at the same time. In this way, we hope to be able to give some support to those who may struggle during the summer.

### MESSY Get There! Holiday Club - 29th to 31st August

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After last year's success, the summer of 2018 will see a new instalment of the



Get There! Holiday Club. This year's theme is MESSY! Get There! is aimed at children aged 7-11. It will take place at the Marlburian Centre and the College Playing Fields from Wednesday 29th August to Friday 31st August 9.30am - 1pm.

The cost for children is £7.50 per day, £20 for three days and financial support is available. On Friday there will be a closing act of worship at St Mary's Church followed by a BBQ for the whole family. The Holiday Club is supported by Marlborough Churches Together. If you know anyone who would like to

come or if you would like to be involved in any way, please contact Janneke (jblokland@gmail.com / 515970). The deadline for registration to attend is 13th July, but offers for help are welcome after that!

### St Non's 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> September

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Book for the annual ecumenical retreat on the glorious Pembrokeshire coast led by Dr Colin Heber-Percy. More details from Barney Rosedale (512205)

## From the Registers

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### Baptism:

20 May – Joshua Jesse Ray Halls at St John the Baptist

3 June – Ella Olivia Newman and Florence Olivia Perry at St George's

### Wedding:

14 April – Milo Hiscox and Elizabeth Stott at St George's

19 May – Paul Whittingham and Claire Bending at St George's

### Departed:

9 May – Brian Powell (84) of 28 Churchill Court, Marlborough

*Kingsdown Crematorium*

# Tower and Town staff

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**Contributions and comments** from readers are welcome. Please send articles and letters to the Monthly Editor or the Editorial Coordinator, other notices or announcements to the compiler. All items for the August issue by 10th July please.

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Tower and Town is available at St Mary's, Christchurch, St Peter's, Mustard Seed, and at St George's, Preshute.

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