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TOWER^{AND}TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

NUMBER 653 October 2015



TIME TO ACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Everyone with a concern for our common future will have their eyes on Paris in December for the UN Climate Change Conference. We must get an international commitment to keep the global temperature to within a safe limit and to help many communities around the world adapt to the negative impacts of an already changing climate.

These words from the Pentagon sum up why climate change is the great threat that we must address in our personal lives, our work and our community:

“Rising global temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, climbing sea levels and more extreme weather events will intensify the challenges of global instability, hunger, poverty, and conflict. They will likely lead to food and water shortages, pandemic disease, disputes over refugees and resources, and destruction by natural disasters in regions across the globe”.

We’re already seeing some of these effects – war and refugees from situations exacerbated by climate change; e.g. a record drought in Syria from 2006 to 2010 that wreaked havoc on agriculture, resulting in migration of the resulting unemployed into urban areas and likely intensifying dissatisfaction with the government.

Aside from a legally binding global carbon reduction agreement, we need global principles and practices that conserve and enhance our biodiversity – nothing short of an economic revolution that respects the finite nature of many of our crucial shared resources.

Jo Ripley - Editor

Soils, Climate Change and a Crisis in Agriculture

by Dr Sam L J Page

Soil is one of nature's most complex ecosystems and one of the most diverse habitats on earth: it contains a myriad of different organisms, which interact and contribute to the global cycles that make all life possible. Nowhere in nature are species so densely packed as in soil communities; however, this biodiversity is little known as it is largely invisible to the human eye.

Our soils are in danger from expanding cities, deforestation, pollution, overgrazing and climate change. The current rate of soil degradation threatens the capacity to meet the needs of future generations.

The soil is a major store of carbon, holding more than our atmosphere and vegetation combined. The way that we treat our soils also has a massive impact on climate change: on the one hand, soil can sequester huge amounts of carbon to prevent carbon dioxide being released into the atmosphere, while on the other, it can be involved in the release of the most potent Greenhouse Gases.

The regular use of aerobically rotted compost, conservation/zero tillage and the establishment of agro-forestry systems will conserve carbon within the soil. However, annual ploughing destabilises soil structure, releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and increases erosion. The emission of potent greenhouse gases, such as methane and nitrous oxide, occurs when fermenting farmyard manure is sprayed onto fields or excessive amounts of nitrogen fertiliser are applied.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) was so alarmed that 5-7 million hectares of agricultural land, including 25 000 million tonnes of topsoil, are being lost each year, through erosion and degradation, that it designated 2015 as the **'International Year of Soils'**. It has been estimated that the UK only has 100 harvests left in its soil due to intensive over-farming and scientists warn that the UK is facing an "agricultural crisis" unless dramatic action is taken to reverse this depletion in soil nutrients.

Researchers from the University of Sheffield found that soils under Britain's allotments were significantly healthier than intensively-farmed soils. The industrial farming model is clearly unsustainable as it threatens our long-term food security as well as significantly contributing to climate change.

More info about the FAO's International Year of Soils at www.fao.org/soils-2015

Divestment from fossil fuels – protect our global future and your pension

by Jo Ripley

The fast-growing global movement for fossil fuel divestment is asking institutions to move their money out of oil, coal and gas companies for both moral and financial reasons.

Many institutions, particularly in the US where the campaign started, have committed to divest - universities, major religious institutions, and charitable foundations and, while the impact on share prices may so far be relatively small, the reputational damage can have serious financial consequences. Divestment aims to remove the legitimacy of a fossil fuel industry whose business model will lead to “severe, widespread and irreversible” impacts on people and planet.

“We need an apartheid-style boycott to save the planet. Nobody thought we’d end apartheid by bankrupting the regime. It was about delegitimising them, shifting public opinion, and ramping up political pressure.” (Archbishop Desmond Tutu).

There are 3 times more proven reserves than can be safely burned for a safe future and, for many of the world’s poor, their present world is already changing for the worse from man-made climate change.

A sub-clime financial crisis?

Major financial institutions including HSBC, Citi and Goldman Sachs have warned of the risks for long-term investors posed by fossil fuel investments, particularly coal, and the Bank of England is investigating whether these over-valued assets could plunge the world into another economic crisis.

UK insurer Aviva has stated that it will sell the shares it holds in coal companies unless they prove they are making progress to reducing their carbon footprint, and plans for billions of investment in low-carbon infrastructure.

Fossil fuel investments are creating a “carbon bubble” worth trillions of dollars based on assets that could prove to be unusable.

If you want your money to work for a sustainable future and not support fossil fuels, visit <http://moveyourmoney.org.uk/> for help & information about banks and building societies and other investment possibilities.

HSBC, BARCLAYS, LLOYDS, RBS & SANTANDER are the biggest 5 investors in the fossil fuel industry.

We could be *so close*.

Some years ago, a German firm, Desertec, developed a technology, Concentrating Solar Power, (CSP) that could potentially power the entire world from a small percentage of the world's deserts. It's used in the US and Spain and, with high voltage direct cables, could power population centres thousands of miles away.

But it's not just solar panels and wind turbines. Energy is being developed from biochar and algae, tidal and wave power. Researchers have created a fully transparent solar concentrator, which could turn any window or sheet of glass - like your smartphone screen - into a photovoltaic cell.

Smart grids have been developed to move the energy where it's needed, smart thermostats make homes more efficient and smart meters can moderate demand in response to fluctuations in wind and sun.

Importantly for a world of growing inequalities, a green economy *grows jobs*.

The world could be running on renewables.

Why isn't it? Because the price on the tag for fossil fuels is cheaper.

The whole community pays the real cost. The International Monetary Fund reports that the costs paid by communities to deal with the pollution, damage to health, and increasing devastation of climate change amounts to \$5 trillion a year - *£1,000 per annum for every citizen*.

The true cost of burning fossil fuels needs to show up in their price.

The call for carbon pricing is beginning to come from all sides, from the President of the World Bank to the Pope - even from energy companies themselves.

Since our entire economy is based on fossil fuels, a *significant* price on coal, oil and gas will raise the price of everything. On its own, this price rise would create economic chaos. And it would be particularly hard on those with low incomes.

Carbon Fee and Dividend, a policy rapidly gaining credence and popularity in the US, calls for the entire sum gathered from a rising price on carbon to be divided up and returned in equal amounts to individuals - shielding the poor, keeping the economy vibrant, and incentivizing all kinds of green investment.

Is this a possibility for us?

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Re-using and Recycling conserves resources and reduces landfill where a quarter of the UK's emissions of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, comes from.

However, we all need to dispose of unwanted items from time to time; however what may be a waste item to you is somebody's must have 'gem'. Below is a resumé of ways to dispose of unwanted items without resorting to the dump.

- Quick and Easy - Pop item/s at the edge of your property (within your boundary) and add a note e.g. 'Free to a good home'; if you want to sell then secure the item or leave a photo, plus phone number. It's amazing what goes!
- Town Charity shops - All take good quality goods but please do not leave bags of goods outside the shop if they are closed. There are also clothes banks – at the Leisure Centre and the Top shop Mace, top of the common.
- Prospect Hospice, Cancer Research and The Dogs Trust all accept electrical goods.
- Oxfam welcomes donations of books, media (including vinyl) and sheet music.
- Unwanted (in date) tins and packets of food can be left in the local churches and supermarkets for donation to Devizes food bank.
- Marlborough Common Car Boot Sales:

Dates for these are on the Town Council website

www.marlboughtowncouncil.gov.uk/the-common-events-calendar.

- On Line – some examples:

Free re-cycling at pewseyourcommunitymatters.org.uk

Gumtree: has a search engine which allows for you to post and see items in your area. Ads are free and their help page is particularly user friendly: www.gumtree.com

Kennet Furniture Refurbishing (KFR): furniture and white goods so that quality items are available to families with limited income, reducing landfill and retraining people with new skills: www.kfr.org.uk 01380 720722

And if you have a Facebook account: Free or for sale in Marlborough www.facebook.com/groups/111936632187327/

Finally:

If none of the above works, remember the opening times for the Recycling Centre have changed: Thurs to Monday 10.00a.m - 4.00p.m and closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Bee Pewsey Project is Causing Quite a Buzz

Helping to protect and promote pollinator populations across the Pewsey Vale.

The Pewsey Environment Action Team (PEAT), with support from beekeeping expert Justin Rigg, has launched a pilot initiative to establish a network of community hives, focusing on bee breeding, to try and increase numbers of the vital pollinators in the area.



According to the recently published National Pollinator Strategy, habitat loss, pests and diseases, climate change and changes in agricultural practices have all resulted in a decline of pollinators, something which has a direct impact on the state of the countryside and the UK food industry.

Having secured North Wessex Area of Outstanding National Beauty (AONB) funding and been donated land by St Francis School, preparation of the site is underway and Bee Pewsey will be up and running early next year with the bees arriving April/May 2016. The bees will then be tended to by a team of trained Bee Pewsey volunteers, before being divided and sold to neighbouring parishes next season.

But it's not just bees that are at threat. Other wild pollinators, including butterflies and hoverflies, are dwindling too. That is why the Bee Pewsey project will also be looking out for these species through wildlife-focused planting and awareness-raising open days.

For more information or to support the Bee Pewsey project contact Chris Body: chris.beepewsey@zen.co.uk

Without action to curb aviation growth, all other UK sectors will have almost to completely decarbonise by 2050 to compensate.

International business flights have been declining steadily since the turn of the century (accounting for about 11% of flights abroad).

Over half the UK population doesn't fly even once a year.

The growth in demand lies with a very small minority, 15%, who fly 3 times or more and accounts for seven out of ten of all flights.

Flying is subsidised - no VAT, no fuel duty: what is needed is a 'frequent fliers' levy – the 'polluter pays' principle.

Local INVESTMENT opportunity

KENNET COMMUNITY ENERGY LIMITED (KCEL)

KCEL was originally established from an initiative of the Energy Group of Transition Marlborough and was formed as an Industrial Provident Society in January 2013. It continues to be developed as a practical response to the challenges that we face to our future energy supplies and climate change.

What we are and what we do can be summarised as follows:

KCEL is a not-for-profit Community Benefit Society with members, not a commercial company.

We fund the provision of solar panels and biomass boilers for large premises, costing the owners nothing but providing them with discounted energy costs. We operate in north and east Wiltshire and the surrounding area generally.

We have no employees, our directors are not paid and we have negligible costs.

We derive our income from the government's FiT and RHI schemes and the sale of energy to the owners of the premises on which the installations are sited.

We are governed by our members; each member has one vote.

We aim to pass surplus income (after interest to our members) to an independent trust to fund projects focused upon reducing carbon emissions.

Currently we have three solar panel installations up and running:

- at Wadworth Brewery Visitor Centre, Devizes: a 44kWp array of 200 panels;
- at Devizes School: 200 panels with a maximum generating capacity of 50kWp;
- at Trowbridge Civic Centre: a 49kWp array of 188 panels.

We are keen to finance similar sized projects when we can find them, at which point we will invite investment from the public at very favourable rates and possible tax reliefs.

KCEL provides a rare illustration of a situation where everyone wins:

- our customers, with discounted energy costs;
- our environment, with cleaner sustainable energy;
- our community, with donations of surplus income;
- our members, with attractive returns.

If you know of possible potential sites and/or wish to be contacted when we are next inviting investment, please contact us: info@kennetenergy.org.uk.

Visit us on www.kennetenergy.org.uk

Fairtrade Status is Marlborough's Aim by Alison Burden

A group of Fairtrade campaigners from Marlborough met in June to plan becoming a Fairtrade Town by 2016.

Representatives from the Marlborough Poverty Action Group, Marlborough Churches Together, Marlborough Brandt Group and Transition Marlborough along with Fairtrade campaigners from Devizes and Bradford on Avon met to explore the possibility of becoming a Fairtrade town by 2016 and to plan next steps. Also invited along as a guest was civic leader, the Town Mayor of Marlborough, Councillor Margaret Rose.

It is estimated that 1.5 million farmers, 25% of them women, currently living and working in developing countries are benefiting from the Fairtrade movement. The Fairtrade mark ensures farmers and workers receive a fair price for the products they produce and the work they do. It is estimated that £23m is the premium generated annually by sales of Fairtrade products and this goes to benefit these farmers worldwide.

Coordinator of the group – Alison Burden – said, ‘Marlborough is a town where ethical products are valued. Getting the coveted Fairtrade Town status not only promotes a fair deal for farmers and workers globally, it will add to Marlborough’s appeal as a place to visit.’

Ten towns in Wiltshire have already achieved Fairtrade status and to follow suit Marlborough will have to fulfil five goals including: having in place a resolution from the Town Council officially supporting Fairtrade; encouraging retail outlets to make at least 4 Fairtrade products available on their shelves; and prompting schools, churches and other community institutions to serve Fairtrade products.

aburden@equalitynow.org / 01672 700268

<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/>

Act Now on Climate Change

**Be one of thousands of voices sending postcards
to the Prime Minister.**

**You can collect from & return to Judy's:
The Flat, Patten Alley (by St Mary's Church)**

We'll deliver!

It is a privilege to live in Marlborough. We are surrounded by the beauty of the Downs and the mysteries of the Forest. Our lovely High Street can tell stories that go back centuries.

We need to look after it, of course. To foster diversity in the fields and beneath the trees. To manage our buildings to ensure they don't crumble into dust. It takes effort, and forethought, to show concern for our environment. **We can – and most of us do – our best. We recycle and use bicycles and spurn the plastic bag. We turn lights off and compost our food waste.**

For with privilege comes responsibility – not just to look after the environment but also to care for each other. Most of us are healthy enough to notice those around us who may not be able to play their part in keeping the Marlborough show on the road; to look out for the frail and elderly when the snows come and knock on a neighbour's door to see if someone needs a pint of milk or a lift to the doctor's. (The Link Scheme is always on the look-out for people willing to transport people to hospital appointments.) Young families, some isolated and with limited income or struggling with post-natal difficulties, might find it hard to hold their heads up among our relative affluence. (Home-Start Kennet would welcome volunteers if you think you could help.) If you have a skill or an interest, from growing vegetables to playing with children to playing a sport, there is a voluntary organisation that needs you.

Just as we share the delights of the town, so we have a responsibility to consider the needs of everyone who lives here. And not because it could be us, tomorrow, with the broken leg who needs a lift to the hospital. Or our sons or daughters unable to manage the sudden arrival of twins. But because our neighbours – like our environment – matter. It's as straightforward as that.

London Climate March

On Sunday November 29th, on the eve of the crucial UN climate talks in Paris, hundreds of thousands of us will take to the streets of major cities across the world demanding action on climate change.

Info re transport to London: 513950
joripley@phonecoop.coop

Marlborough Medical Practice Patient Participation Group (PPG) Update

Did you know...

The practice now employs a number of trained Health Care Assistants (HCAs) who are able to perform a number of clinical procedures including:

- Taking blood
- Giving vaccinations
- Changing dressings
- Syringing ears
- Freezing warts and verruca
- Offering smoking cessation advice
- Undertaking NHS Health Checks
- Undertaking New Patient Medicals
- Fitting and removing 24 hour ECG machines



All members of our clinical team work together to help support patients, especially those with increasingly complex health needs, and we would ask that rather than always seeing your GP, you consider seeing other members of our team when appropriate. For instance if you have a query about the medication you are taking, our Dispensary Team may be able to help you.

If you are not sure who you should see, or if you need to have an appointment to discuss your concerns, please ask reception for advice.

Advertise your local event

If you have an event coming up and want to reach a wider audience, let Tower & Town know about it. There is no charge for charity events. We'll put it in the 'What's On' calendar and where possible create a separate advertisement. Just let us have the title, a brief description, the cause, the date and time and any entry charge - we'll do the rest.

“Brilliant Young Pianists in St Peter’s Church”

Mai Charissa Tran-Ringrose

Sunday 25th October 2015 7.30 pm

Many will remember three years ago when Mai Charissa gave a remarkable recital in St Peter’s Church at the age of 16. Now a student at Trinity College Cambridge, she returns to perform music by Beethoven and Chopin.



In 2005 Mai Charissa won First Prize at Thailand's National Piano Competition for Young Pianists, and in 2007 First Prize at Thailand's First National Beethoven Competition for the under-13 year old age group.

At the age of thirteen, she obtained her Diploma of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, with Distinction and, at the age of fourteen, her Licentiate of the Royal Schools of Music. The following year she was accorded France's Diplome d'Etudes Musicales.

This is a recital by an extraordinary young musical prodigy that should not be missed.

Tickets at £10 are available from Sound Knowledge, White Horse Bookshop and on the door.

Book early to reserve your tickets for the hugely popular

St Mary’s Church Barn Dance & Supper

Friday 6th November

6.30 - 9.30 (to accommodate young families and those more senior)

No need to eat beforehand - a hot meal is included

music by

The Marlborough Ceilidh Band

Time to dance or relax, time to sit and chat (with music not too loud to preclude this), time for children to play, time for a glass of wine or beer or soft drink, time to enjoy yourself.

Tickets: Adults £8, children 5 to 16 £2, younger children free.

Contact: Jenny Noble 01672 519034 or jenny@kingsburysquare.org.uk

What's on in October

Every Monday

7.30pm: Christchurch. Marlborough Choral Society.

Every Tuesday

10-11.30am: Christchurch. Friendship Club.

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

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.

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*)

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. Help line: 07729 452143.

October Calendar

Until 31 Oct. Rabley Drawing Centre, Mildenhall SN8 2LW.

Art Exhibition: 'Hangers & Hangers'. Thurs-Fri 10am-5pm; Sat 11am-3pm. Closed 15-17 Oct.

2-4 October (*Friday to Sunday*)

Marlborough Literature Festival. Details on www.marlboroughlitfest.org

3rd (*Saturday*)

7.30pm Theatre on the Hill. 'Purple Zeppelin'. £15.

5th (*Monday*)

2pm Kennet Valley Hall. Embroiders' Guild. Speaker: Alison Lister. 'Textile Conservation'. 861410.

6.45pm Town Hall. Live from ROH: 'Le Nozze di Figaro'. £15 in adv, £17.50 on door.

7th (*Wednesday*)

7.30pm Jubilee Centre, AGM of The Jubilee Centre

7.30pm Wesley Hall, Oxford Street. WI. Gordon Brockman. Antique Road Show (bring item for valuation).

8th (*Thursday*)

7.15pm Town Hall. Live from Vaudeville Theatre: 'The Importance of Being Earnest'. £12 in adv, £14 on door.

7.30pm St Peter's Church. Lecture by Michael Hart: 'Early Encounters with Islam'. £8 (Merchant's House Friends), £10 (non Friends).

10th (*Saturday*)

Mop Fair.

11th (*Sunday*)

7.30pm Marlborough College, Memorial Hall. Subscription Concert. Emma Johnson: Clarinet Goes to Town. 892566.

12th (*Monday*)

10-am-4pm St Peter's Church. Cards for Good Causes. (Until Christmas.)

7.30pm Bouverie Hall, Pewsey. Pewsey Vale NADFAS. Lecture by Caroline Holmes. 'Australia's Impressionists: The Heidelberg School'. 07775 683163

14th (*Wednesday*)

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

7.30-9.30pm St Peter's Jnr School. Filling Station (see News from the Churches, page 20)

7.45pm. Wesley Hall, Oxford Street. Gardening Association. Talk by George Hargreaves. 'Gardens of Wessex'.

15th (*Thursday*)

7pm Town Hall. Live from the NT at The Barbican: 'Hamlet'. £15 in adv, £17 on door.

7.30 St Peter's Church. Talk by Martin Evans: 'The Merry Monarch – The Mistresses of Charles II. Guests £3. Students half-price.

16th (*Friday*)

Marlborough College half term starts.

Continued over...

October Calendar continued...

17th (*Saturday*)

Mop Fair

19th (*Monday*)

11am Ellendune Hall, Wroughton. Kennet DFAS. Lecture by Clive Barham Carter: **Bringing Back the Needle of an Obelisk.**

7.30pm Slade House, St James' Gardens, Devizes. Kennet Valley National Trust Association. Talk by Anne King: 'H . . . is for Heritage'. £3 (£4 non members)

21st (*Wednesday*)

St John's Term 1 ends.

7pm Town Hall. Live from RSC: 'Henry V'. £15 in adv, £17.50 on door.

22nd (*Thursday*)

7pm Town Hall. Autumn Fashion Show (see below)

24th (*Saturday*)

10am-4pm Marlborough College, Norwood Hall. Feast of Food. Entry £5 in aid of Cancer Research.

25th (*Sunday*)

7.30pm St Peter's Church. Concert. Mai Charissa Tran Ringrose (piano). £10, £8 (members of St Peter's Trust and MBG)

26th (*Monday*)

10am-4pm daily. ARK Photo Competition Exhibition.

29th (*Thursday*)

7.30pm Town Hall. Film: 'Woman in Gold' (12). £5 in adv, £6 on door.

Marlborough & District Lions Club

present an

Autumn Fashion Show

at Marlborough Town Hall

Thursday 22nd October 2015 at 7pm (doors open at 6.45)

Tickets £15 (including refreshments) from participating Marlborough shops

Phase Eight, Luna Boutique, Dress, Foxtrot and Viyella

Further tickets contact Carolyn Edmunds on 07786 958339

Marlborough - a Fairtrade Town?

Marlborough welcomes leading UK advocate to boost its campaign to become a Fairtrade Town

Joe Human, Coordinator of the Cumbria Fairtrade Network, will address a public meeting on **Wednesday 14th October at 6.30pm at the Town Hall**. This meeting, open to all the community, will be an opportunity to find out more about why Fairtrade is important both for producers overseas and the town, and what we collectively need to do to achieve Fairtrade status. Representatives from local businesses and action groups, schools, churches and more will exchange experiences and explain why they support the campaign.

Our guest speaker Joe Human taught for 20 years in Kenya, Papua New Guinea and England, following which he worked for Oxfam GB for 20 years. He now lives in Keswick, where until recently he was Secretary of the local Fair Trade Campaign, which promotes Fairtrade in the local community and the tourist sector. He is currently Coordinator of Cumbria Fair Trade Network, an alliance of over 20 campaigning groups, of which 19 have attained Fairtrade status for their communities. Working closely with the County Council, the Network achieved Fairtrade County status for Cumbria in 2006.

The Fairtrade system ensures not only that farmers get a fair price for their products but also an additional premium to help them invest with others in projects that can help their community, such as health clinics, schools, clear water, food processing facilities or improving access roads in their area. Many businesses here in Marlborough support this principle in sourcing goods from local suppliers.

Marlborough can also be proud of its international links and the many local action groups who support community led projects. This campaign is about supporting these efforts and securing an economic and social benefit for Fairtrade producers and our local community.

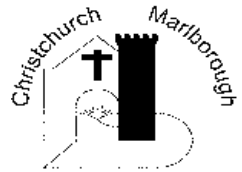
Coordinator of the Fairtrade Marlborough Group – Alison Burden – said, ‘In a recent survey of 34 outlets in Marlborough, we found that just under one third stock Fairtrade goods. This is a great start but we can do more. We are therefore really excited to welcome Joe Human to Marlborough; we look forward to learning from his experience and increasing the number of local businesses that sell Fairtrade products and support this campaign’

*For further information see www.fairtrade.org.uk
or contact: Alison Burden aburden@equalitynow.org*

News from the Churches

Women's Fellowship

6th Oct: Rev. Heather Cooper
13th Oct: Members Meeting
20th Oct: Kate Trowbridge
27th Oct: Rev. Janneke Blokland
3rd Nov: Chrissy Whittington.



Harvest Festivals

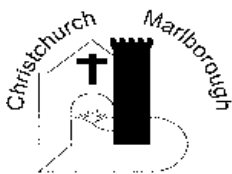


St Mary's and St George's will be celebrating Harvest on Sunday 4th October at 10.00am with services suitable for all ages.
St John the Baptist, Minal, will be celebrating at the later time of 11.00am on the same day (All Age Worship for Harvest), followed by a barbecue in the church grounds.

Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group (MAPAG)

The group meets on Monday 5th October in the Friends Meeting House at 7.30pm. All are welcome. More details from Rachel Rosedale: rachelrosed1@gmail.com.

Sunday Lunch Club at Christchurch



The Lunch Club is open to all and it is an opportunity to chat informally with members of church and non members and at the same time enjoy a roast dinner. The cost is £7.50 for a two course meal followed by tea/coffee. Reservations need to be with Kate Trowbridge or Christchurch Office (513701) by 10am on the Friday before the lunch.

Mustard Seed Book Group

The Book Group meets on Thursday 1st October at 7.30pm in Mustard Seed. They will be discussing *What's a nice Jewish girl like you doing in a church like this?* Lynne Bradley, the author, has not had a quiet life; ballet dancer, model, performing artist, poet and Messianic Jewess. The book is a bright, frank and humorous account of how Jesus pursued her for many years before she finally turned to Him. It offers insights into the Jewish and Christian faiths and is an honest account of heartache and joy, dramatic healing and second chances.



Deanery Bitesize Learning Programme

All meetings are free and open to all.

Monday 5th October at 7.30pm in Chiseldon Church Hall. “Have you heard what I said?” led by Rev. Roger Powell. An opportunity to explore our listening skills. We have all experienced the frustration of being misunderstood and not listened to.

How might we better become part of the solution than the problem?

Tuesday 13th October at 7.30pm in West Overton Church. An Introduction to Lectio Divina – finding time to listen to God led by Rev. Maria Shepherdson. This gentle form of praying with scriptures invites you to savour and mull over God’s words quietly, slowly and intently until you begin to respond to what God is saying.

And in November, three sessions on Faith and Science at 7.30 pm in the Marlborough Friends’ Meeting House, SN8 1NE, to be led by Rev. Janneke Blokland (515970) and John Yates. Has Richard Dawkins won (or lost) the faith and science debate?

Monday 2nd Nov. The Scientific Method: its strengths and limitations. Did Newton believe in miracles?

Monday 9th Nov. Free Will: are our lives and actions predestined or not, and does it matter?

Monday 16th Nov. Faith and Modern Science: the mind-body problem and other philosophical challenges.



Pub Theology

Open and honest conversation about the things that matter. The format is simple: a drink, conversation and God.

The Green Dragon, Marlborough from 8.00pm on 29 September and 14 October.

Topics this Autumn:

Art and Faith: Can art do without the transcendent?

Ethics and Faith: What about pain?

All welcome. Contact Janneke for more information: 515970 jblokland@gmail.com

The Civic Service

This will take place in St Mary’s Church, Marlborough on Sunday 11th October at 3.00pm, followed by refreshments in the Town Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Continued overleaf..

Marlborough Street Angels

The Angels will be at the Mop Fairs on 10th and 17th October, co-ordinated by Helen and Vincent Stokes. Please contact them if you would like to volunteer to take part in this exciting venture. hcstokes@gmail.com.

All Souls Service

The service takes place at St Mary's Church on Sunday 1st November at 4.00pm. This is an Ecumenical Service of thanksgiving and remembrance for those who have died during the past year.

Paul Hobbs Art Exhibition

This exhibition, *The Heart of Things, painting and sculpture by Paul Hobbs* has had to be moved to 2016 for health reasons.

For more information about his work, visit his website: <http://arthobbs.com>.

Filling Station, Marlborough

Wednesday October 14th is when Shirley Paterson will be speaking; Shirley is a teacher and curate in Barnstaple with a long association with New Wine. She has run countless courses on parenting and family relationships. Meetings take place from 7.30-9.30pm at St Peter's Junior School, Marlborough, SN8 1LQ.



Devotion

devotion

continues to hold Hangout at the Mead on Tuesdays and Hangout at Devotion on Thursdays.

More information on the website, www.devotion-marlborough.co.uk.

Marlborough Churches Together

There will be an Open Council Meeting of Marlborough Churches Together on Wednesday 7th October at Christchurch, 7.30pm. Please contact Alison Selby if you would like a topic discussed at the meeting or if you would like to attend.. (alison@crossmead.net)



Family News from your local Community by Audrey Peck

Gillian Keily's grandson Miles Keily-Baxter has overcome the difficulty of being dyslexic, got good A levels and is going to Canada to Montreal University to study physics.

Old friends from St Mary's Church and the Scouts have been wondering about Joan and David Cowley since they moved from their home in George Lane. Are they living nearer their son or daughter? If anyone is in contact with them please give them our very best wishes.

Suzanne Gough died while on holiday in Jersey. She had a long spell in hospital about a year ago but was recovering well. She was born in the Children's Hospital, now St. Lukes, because her mother was a nurse there. Matron Harrall was her godmother. She and her late sister, Margaret, grew up in Marlborough. Starting at St Mary's Infants' School she became lifelong friends with Janet Biggs (Palmer) and Rosemary Cooper (Dobson). She trained as a teacher at Weymouth College and taught in Swindon, finally as Head of Ferndale Infants' School. She sang with the Kennet Singers for 24 years and did an annual comedy sketch with Janet as part of their show. She was a member of Lockeridge 60+ Club. Her friends and neighbours were shocked and saddened by her death.

FEAST OF FOOD

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On Saturday 24th October the
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ing marketplace with over 65 exhibitors selling award-winning food, drink and inspiring dining accessories plus a carefully selected range of gifts – something for everyone. Don't miss it! Delicious home-made refreshments available all day. See the list of exhibitors on

www.marlboroughcancerresearch.org.

Open from 10am to 4pm, with an entry fee of £5.00, and free car parking available at the College, the FEAST OF FOOD is a fund-raising event for Cancer Research UK. For further details contact Anne on 07887 924539 or email: anne@marlboroughcancerresearch.org.

An event not to be missed!



Feast of Food

Greetings All,

I love the autumn, this “Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness” as John Keats writes in the first line of his poem *To Autumn*. Driving through this beautiful part of Wiltshire it is so lovely to see his words revealed in the countryside. Driving also brings with it the added joys of large tractors laden with the harvest and other big farm machinery filling the roads. They force us to drive slowly and in so doing give us time to look at the beauty around us, to appreciate the work of the farmers and the richness of the harvest.

Autumn brings with it the annual round of Harvest Festivals in our churches and over the years of my ministry I have seen a distinct shift in the way we celebrate. When I first started my ministry Harvest Festival was more about our harvests, the farmers, fishermen, miners and all who ensured we had food and other material comforts. We acknowledged the gifts of God in all of this as we celebrated and gave thanks.

Now, the Harvest Festivals have a greater element of social responsibility in them as we focus on the needs of those who do not have the abundant harvests we enjoy. We support aid projects in Africa and other areas of poverty. We support Water Aid, Send a Cow, Tearfund, Christian Aid and many other charities that help us to be aware of the needs of those who struggle to provide even 1 meal a day for their children.

We also focus on the needs of local farmers and those who depend on food banks to feed their families.

As we celebrate and thank God for his provisions and generosity we are challenged about our stewardship of his gifts.

How do we share our plenty?

How do we support those who struggle?

How do we demonstrate God’s generous love?

These are not just challenges for Christians but for everyone who cares about their neighbour and the generosity of those who fill the food bank collecting stations around town is evidence of that, and I am sure that same generosity will be demonstrated as we respond to the desperate needs of refugees fleeing Syria.

As we move through this beautiful season of autumn take a moment to appreciate the beauty and a moment to give thanks for the beauty, for the harvest and for God’s generous love revealed not only in the harvest but in the compassion and giving of this community.

Every blessing, Heather Cooper

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Marlborough Churches Together

Usual Sunday service times

Christchurch, New Road (Methodist – URC)

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 (1st 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.

Marlborough Church Contacts

Fr. John Blacker

513267; Marlborough@catholicweb.org.uk
Parish Priest, St Thomas More RC Church

The Revd Dr Janneke Blokland

515970; jblokland@gmail.com
Team Curate, Marlborough Anglican Team

The Revd Dr David Campbell

892209; dc@marlboroughcollege.org
Chaplain, Marlborough College

The Revd Heather Cooper

512457; heather.cooper432@btinternet.com
Minister, Christchurch Methodist

The Revd Miri Keen

513408; miri.marlbroughteam@gmail.com
Team Vicar, Marlborough Anglican Team

The Revd Dr David Maurice

514119; david_maurice2000@yahoo.com
Associate Minister, Marlborough Anglican Team

Rachel Rosedale

512205; rachelrosed1@gmail.com
Member, The Religious Society of Friends

The Revd Canon Andrew Studdert-Kennedy

514357; andrewsk1959@btinternet.com
Team Rector, Marlborough Anglican Team

~~~~~  
**Alison Selby**

511128; alison@crossmead.net  
Crossmead, Kingsbury Street, SN8 1HU  
*Secretary, Marlborough Churches Together*

**Andrew Trowbridge**

513701;  
office@christchurchmarlborough.org.uk  
Christchurch Office, New Road, SN8 1AH

**Laura Willis**

512357; marlb.anglicanteam@tiscali.co.uk  
Anglican Team Office, Church Cottage,  
Silverless Street, SN8 1JQ

## Tower and Town On-line

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Tower and Town is pleased to be able to announce the launch of an on-line edition for subscribers, beginning with the January 2016 edition. If you are a subscriber and would like access to the on-line edition as well as receiving your printed copy, please send your email address to [hugh@desaram.co.uk](mailto:hugh@desaram.co.uk) so that we can register you in the user database. Hugh de Saram will then tell you how to log into the on-line edition.

## From the Register

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- Baptism:** 23 August – Paolo Albert William Nash-Cox at St Mary’s  
23 August – Edward Michael Baverstock Seaman at St John the Baptist
- Weddings:** 29 August – Lucie Frampton and Greg Higgs at St George’s  
5 September – Ann Westall and David Kearney at St John the Baptist  
19 September – Pauline Nicholls and Joel Williams at St Mary’s
- Departed:** 22 Aug – Sylvia Anne Rogers (83) of Coombe End Court, Marlborough

## Success or What?

by Peter Noble

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**From small beginnings in 1992, the Kennet U3A has, like Topsy, ‘grewed’ to an organisation with over sixty groups undertaking all sorts of activities.**

Who’s it for you ask? Well, anybody who considers themselves in their ‘third age’, you know the usual parameters: formal education finished and career winding down (or finished too); kids grown and gone and you’re looking for a new interest.

The full title of the U3A: University of the Third Age, can be a bit off -putting, but it asks for no qualifications and gives none. It’s a collection of like minded people interested in a wide variety of subjects and pass-times on a self-help basis; and no course fees.

The list of current groups is quite impressive including, bowls, various walking groups, foreign languages, art and music appreciation, knitting, model making, discussion groups, history, current affairs, computers, chess, bridge and many others. New groups on offer this year are: ‘Science, Technology and Engineering’, ‘Jazz Appreciation’, ‘Music Making’, ‘Japanese Culture’, a study of ‘Beckett’, and ‘Canasta’.

If you would like to know more or even have an interest you would like to offer, contact me, the Groups Coordinator, on [peter@kingsburysquare.org.uk](mailto:peter@kingsburysquare.org.uk)

# Tower and Town staff

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|                                      |                                                                                                  |              |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Chairman</b>                      | John Osborne, 36 St Martins, SN8 1AS<br>jeo66@btinternet.com                                     | 514364       |
| <b>Vice Chairman</b><br>(Operations) | Andrew Unwin, Sarsen House, The Street,<br>All Cannings, Devizes, SN10 3PA   afunwin@yahoo.co.uk | 01380 860120 |
| <b>Advertising</b>                   | Andrew Unwin       (as above)                                                                    |              |
| <b>Distribution</b>                  | Rosemary Spiller, 2 Shakespeare Drive, SN8 1UF                                                   | 512338       |
| <b>Subscriptions</b>                 | Norma Dobic, 112a Five Stiles Road, SN8 4BG                                                      | 513461       |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                     | Peter Astle, 4 Laurel Drive, SN8 2SH                                                             | 515395       |
| <b>Production Teams</b>              |                                                                                                  |              |
| <i>November</i>                      |                                                                                                  |              |
| Editor                               | St John's School edition                                                                         |              |
| Compiler                             | Rob Napier            rob.napier@clara.net                                                       | 512333       |
| <i>December/January</i>              |                                                                                                  |              |
| Editor                               | Preshute Primary School edition - other contact John Osborne as above                            |              |
| Compiler                             | Rob Napier            rob.napier@clara.net                                                       | 512333       |
| <b>Every Month</b>                   |                                                                                                  |              |
| <i>What's On</i>                     | Karen Osborne        karenos64@btinternet.com<br>36 St Martins, Marlborough SN8 1AS              | 514364       |
| <i>News from<br/>the Churches</i>    | Alison Selby          alison@crossmead.net<br>Crossmead, Kingsbury St, SN8 1HU                   | 511128       |
| <i>Family News</i>                   | Audrey Peck          rogandaud@aol.com<br>7 Castle Court, Marlborough SN8 1XG                    | 289065       |

**Contributions and comments** from readers are welcome. Please send articles and letters to the Editor, other notices or announcements to the Compiler. All items for inclusion in next month's Tower & Town must be submitted by **Tuesday 13th October**.

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