

TOWER^{AND}TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES.

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Christmas and the New Year

The Season of Celebration ...

... and Commemoration

Very soon there will be a lot of it about again: the rampant commercial side of Christmas, and then the gathering together of the family and the joyful celebration in church and chapel, singing the carols and listening once more to the story of the Nativity.

Currently we are poignantly commemorating the events of 1914, and this will continue as the centenaries of the battles and the losses of the First World War roll on through the next four years. Next year brings us centenaries of Magna Carta, and the Battles of Agincourt and of Waterloo, but let us reflect first on what happened on Christmas Day in 1914 in France.

On Christmas Eve the sound of men singing 'Silent Night' came from the German trenches; British troops joined in the singing. On Christmas morning these Tommies and these Fritzes, who had been enemies, met in no man's land, exchanged small gifts of food and tobacco, and played football. The 'authorities' did not approve of this fraternization, and tried to hush it up and prevent it happening again.

Not all the pieces in this edition are obviously about Christmas or the New Year, but they are all in some way about bringing people together and recognizing our common humanity. In Peace.

John Osborne, *Editor*

Cover Photograph: Brian Woodruffe: Angel, from Christchurch, Bradford-on-Avon
Compiler: Hugh de Saram **Proof Readers:** Mike Jackson and Jean Gray

A Christmas letter from Christchurch: Heather Cooper

I have to confess that I love everything about Christmas. It's exhausting, but such a wonderful time. I love that, too!

It's a time to make contact with people - even if it is only the once a year card. It's about remembering all the people who have touched our lives over the years. It's a time to catch up on news, sometimes good, sometimes sad.

I love the chance to share Christmas carols and parties with a wide variety of groups; sometimes for clergy December is just one long party.

Best of all are the services, and for me the most special time in the whole Christmas season is the Christmas Eve Midnight Communion. In a quiet church with subdued lighting - probably candles - we sing and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. The communion serves to remind us of the link with Easter, too.

Christmas is about God who loves us enough to come and share our humanity. Whether we believe or not doesn't alter the fact of God's love. Christmas is about God who is involved in our lives and understands what it means to be human - surely this is the best reason of all to celebrate Christmas.

It has been said that without Christ Christmas is just another winter festival. I believe that without Christ there is no real meaning to the celebrations.

As you celebrate Christmas this year, in whatever way you choose to celebrate, may you glimpse something of God and the wonder of his love for you.

There is a Christmas poem I love: U A Fanthorpe's *BC:AD* Look it up for yourselves in her *Christmas Poems* (2002); the last lines are:-

“... this was the moment
When a few farm workers and three
Members of an obscure Persian sect
Walked haphazard by starlight straight
Into the kingdom of heaven.”



Every blessing for Christmas and all that 2015 will bring to you.

Christmas in Pokhara, Nepal: Jo Carroll

‘Merry Crishmus.’ The text was from my guide, reminding me I’d agreed to be up early to go hiking today.

Pokhara was twinkling but I did not look back as Tika led me through the city and across a suspension bridge into the foothills of the Himalaya. I puffed up, with boots and walking pole, as two women in flip-flops came down with oranges for the market. Would I like to buy some? Of course.



Less than a mile later we met a friend of Tika’s who took us to his house. His tree was laden with oranges – we must eat some. But we could not linger long, as his aunt expected us for lunch. High in the mountains there is little choice and we ate a traditional Nepali meal of rice, spinach and lentil dhal. At least she has a biogas stove and no longer has to collect wood for the forest for cooking. And her tree was laden with oranges; she picked some just for us.



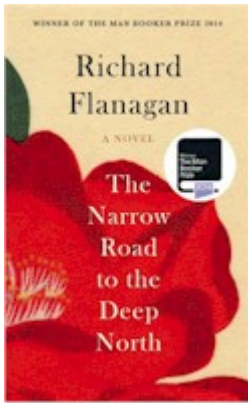
On the way home we paused by a small temple, gazed across the valley to the mountains, stark and beautiful. The birds sang; the air was sweet and clear. One old couple toddled out of their little house, to give us oranges. We visited another sister before making it back into town (another orange, of course.)

I just had time to shower and change before joining Tika and his family for supper. I bought them chocolates. Presents, I explained, are part of our Christmas tradition. And we’ll give you a traditional meal, Tika’s wife told me. She bent over a tiny stove on her rooftop to cook the rice, and spinach, and lentil dhal. Followed by

...

At home, families would be sated by now, many so full they could do nothing but flop in front of Mary Poppins. While I had been with people who had shared nothing but lentil dhal and oranges. And not because it was Christmas, but because this was all they had.

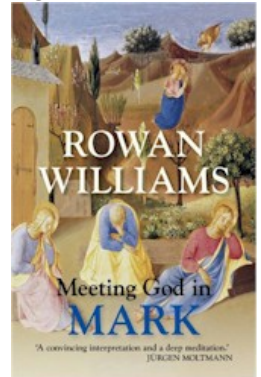
Reading this Christmas: Deborah Reynolds



Once the Christmas festivities are over I relish a somewhat quieter period to do some more extended reading. This year's Booker Prize Winner *The Narrow Road to the Deep North* by Richard Flanagan, and *The Children Act* by Ian McEwan, are already on my wish list but I've also been eyeing the many interesting books there are in **Mustard Seed**.

I'm longing to have a read of Rowan Williams' (former Archbishop of Canterbury) new book *Meeting God in Mark*, which looks full of fascinating and accessible insights into Mark's Gospel. As the lectionary readings for this Church Year are focussing on Mark, this book seems even more relevant. Over the years, I've found Rowan Williams writings incredibly helpful in exploring and thinking about the Christian faith in deeper ways. Timothy Radcliffe OP says,

'This wonderful book shows how Mark's beautiful and subtle Gospel still challenges our understanding of God and of how God works in our lives. It is written in a clear and vivid style and I could not put it down.'



Also on **Mustard Seed** shelves are the *Grantchester Mysteries* written by James Runcie (son of another former Archbishop of Canterbury!), which are an intriguing collection of short stories based upon the fictional life of an Anglican priest turned detective living in Cambridge in the 1950s. Some of the stories have been televised and certainly made entertaining viewing. What I expect to like in these novels is not only the crime genre itself, but also the gentle signposts signifying that life and people are not always as we expect them to be and the subtle reminders of faith in everyday life, e.g:

'Love was the most unpredictable and chameleon of emotions, sometimes sudden and unstable, able to flare up and die down; at other times loyal and constant, the pilot flame of a life. Sidney [the priest] touched his hands together in prayer. Then he gave himself up into silence. How we love determines how we live, he thought.'

Hopes and Fears for 2015: Jo Ripley

Paris 2015 looms large as a focus will aim to achieve, for the first negotiations, *a binding, universal*



for hope when the world's leaders time in 20+ years of UN agreement on climate change.

The fear is that negotiations fall short and we face further costly delay in actions to avoid the worst impacts.

The US Department of Defence's recent report states that extreme weather, rising temperatures, unpredictable rainfall and rising oceans could fuel armed insurgency and heighten the impact of a pandemic, through their effects on political instability, poverty, migration and disputes over resources: *"Climate change will affect the Department of Defence's ability to defend the Nation and poses immediate risks to U.S. national security."*

Many big business groups recognise how climate and energy policy decisions have an enormous impact on investments and are concerned about the potential cost and risk associated with delayed action. The World Bank recognises the efficacy of taxation: *"The most powerful move that a government can make in the fight against climate change is to put a price on carbon"*, but politicians are fearful of the reactions of the electorate.

There is a growing movement in the US for a revenue-neutral **carbon tax**: a steadily rising tax on the CO2 of fossil fuels, with 100 % of the revenues reimbursed directly to all households, protecting them from the financial impact of the transition to a clean energy economy. The rising cost of fossil fuels increases the demand for low emission products, decreasing their cost as production rises and motivates investment in a low carbon economy. Carbon tax border adjustments would protect exports and encourage importing countries to follow suit.

The *'Carbon Tax and Dividend'* is gaining support here and elsewhere, as an equitable and efficient tool for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and stabilizing our climate.

Do You Run a Local Organization? Are You Involved with a Local Charity?

Tower and Town finds itself with a modest surplus from time to time. It is a non-profit-making enterprise and is happy to give money away to any good local cause.

If you are involved, say, in a local voluntary organization which needs some financial support, please let us know.

We may be able to help with a small grant.

Please get in touch with John Osborne. His contact details are on p 28.

Another look at 'Holy War': John Osborne

Christians and Muslims have spent most of the last fourteen centuries confronting each other with fear and hostility. The sudden expansion of IS in the Middle East and the threat that some of their followers seem to pose nearer to home may have reinforced this impression of Islam, that it encourages aggression and condones violence. On the 'other' side, the American and British use of armed force in Iraq and Afghanistan is perceived as a latter-day 'crusade', hostile to Islam.

Yet both of these two great religions preach peace and tolerance as fundamental principles.

Islam has been represented as a religion that promotes its influence and justifies war under the label 'Jihad', a word mistranslated as 'Holy War'. 'Jihad', means 'struggle' or 'effort', and Mohammed himself made it clear that there are two forms of this: to defend one's religion is the Lesser Jihad; the Greater Jihad is the inner struggle against the worse parts of one's own nature, eg selfishness. Mainstream Muslim thinking has it that resorting to arms is justified only when the community of the faithful is under attack and when all other avenues, eg negotiation, have failed. War can be declared only by a proper religious authority and should never involve non-combatants or the destruction of property. The Christian notion of a 'Just War' is based on very similar principles.

But Islam is not endemically a 'religion of the sword'. Wars of looting and conquest have been described as 'wars of religion', when the powers-that-be used 'God' as justification for the 'sword'. The Koran insists that 'there is no compulsion in religion', and like the Bible, stresses the sanctity of life. Only God, who gives life, may take it away, and so unprovoked killing is wrong and suicide bombings particularly abhorrent.


Ed Hussain's *The Islamist* describes how misguided adolescent idealism led him to join an extremist Islamist organization that actively promotes the establishment of an Islamic State by revolutionary and violent means; and how a murder on a London street made him realize how far he had strayed from the core principles of Islam.

My wish for the New Year and beyond is for Christians and Muslims to reject simplistic views of each other, recognize the compassion that is common to both faiths and back away from extreme positions. As a noted academic has put it: it would help if Islam were to heal its divisions and we were to keep out of the Middle East.

A Wider View: James Kelly, Macular Society Support Group

Over two years ago I discovered I had a blocked vein in my left eye which had caused the retina to become distorted. This meant that I only had peripheral vision and any central vision was badly distorted. To start with the bad image was superimposed on the good image from my right eye. Slowly my brain has adapted and I am not aware of the bad image now. When I was at the Great Western Hospital having treatment I noticed a poster for the *Marlborough Support Group of the Macular Society*. I went to a meeting to see what they did and perhaps even help in some way.

If you have any form of visual impairment you are most welcome.

The group provides a social meeting with perhaps a speaker or entertainment. Sometimes a trip out is arranged. They also provide advice by having people from the Macular Society  national office, Wiltshire Blind, RNIB and other organisations.

I now understand how having impaired vision has a drastic effect on the quality of life of those affected. Many are not able to drive, watch television, read or use a computer. As this condition usually affects the elderly, they may live on their own, which makes getting out and socialising difficult.

The small group of members enjoy coming each month because we know we all have similar problems. One member said that many people don't understand what it's like to walk into a room and not be able to recognise anyone, even your friends. This is because central vision loss makes peoples faces blurred or blanked out grey. Members enjoy the social aspects of the meetings and the opportunity to discuss their problems.

We have been fortunate: a couple of grants have helped us fund transport and sometimes subsidise an event. Our main problem has been attracting enough members from the Marlborough area to make the meetings viable. We would like to see more people come along and their carers are always welcome.

The Marlborough Support Group meets on the last Thursday of every month at 1.30 pm at the Wesley Hall in Oxford Street, Marlborough. Contact Linda Chapman on 01672 512471.

Cards for Christmas

The angel on the front cover of this edition and here in this article is on a card being sold by the **Friends of Wiltshire Churches** in aid of the **Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust**. A second card has a wonderful stained-glass window from St Peter and St Paul, Heytesbury.

The Trust raises money for the repair of churches and chapels in Wiltshire and in the last year it has made grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 for repairs to 29 places of worship in Wiltshire, several local to Marlborough.

Please support the **Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust** by buying cards. Write to Brian Woodruffe, Anchorholme, Hop Gardens, Whiteparish, Salisbury SP5 2ST or e-mail him at aded@bjwtuscany1.waitrose.com

Cards, with envelopes, are £2.50 for a pack of 5, with minimum order of four packs and a postage charge of £2.

The **Friends** help to raise the money through membership fees and activities such as visits to churches. The annual **Ride and Stride** in which individuals take part, visiting scores of churches on a September day, is a big fund-raiser.

Please **become a Friend of Wiltshire Churches**: John Osborne (p.28) has details or write to Martin Knight, The Manor, Winterbourne Bassett SN4 9PU.

Have a look at the attractive website of the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust – www.wiltshirehistoricchurchestrust.org.uk



The Bundlers: Norma Dobie writes

Rosemary Johnston and I have been 'bundling' (counting Tower and Town into bundles ready for the Distributors) each month since 2000 and I would like to thank **Ann Owen** who, with the help of **Linda Wells**, has taken over from us.

The Editor adds: Our thanks to Norma and her helpers, Audrey Pitman and Vinnie Harris, for all that they have done. She is not lost to Tower and Town, of course, as she handles all our subscriptions with great competence and commitment.

Peter Noble suggests a Marlborough Walk

A friend once proudly announced that there were several good walks within ten minutes of his town centre. Somewhat ungraciously I responded by saying there are probably several good walks within ten minutes of all British town centres, London excepted - although my daughter, who works near Trafalgar Square, recently expressed her pleasure and privilege at being able to jog through Green Park and Hyde Park and daily enjoy them and the local architecture that tourists pay small fortunes to visit.

However, I can think of few countries that can boast such varied and pleasant scenery as we have in Britain, and all so accessible. Our countryside may not be 'grand', we have no massive waterfalls, no giant redwoods, no glaciers or high mountains, even our biggest rivers are quite modest, but nor do we have to drive for hours to get anywhere or for our scenery to change character.

We are so lucky in Marlborough, for we have good and varied walks even more accessible, and *here is one that starts at the Library in the High Street!*

- 1 Take Hyde Lane to the all-weather sports area then follow the path beside this and parallel to Hyde Lane (not to the College complex).
- 2 At the top of the grassy path turn left up the rough road to the cemetery.
- 3 Turn right along the track between the old and new graveyards to the Common then briefly join the new footpath left to the cemetery gates.
- 4 So cross the road (Free's Avenue) and continue left along the edge of the golf fairway.
- 5 At the end is a small path through shrubby trees that briefly meets the road then swings right through an open gateway into a field.
- 6 Turn left along the edge of the field until you are opposite the large entrance to the Manton Estate. Cross the road, enter the estate and follow the metalled road that eventually swings left to the farm.
- 7 Just before the farm, turn right up a quite steep rough road beside a wood.
- 8 At the top, the road becomes more of field-side track that swings right at the end of the trees. Here you should see a signpost and a path that turns left. Follow it with a hedge and field on your left, an open field on your right.
- 9 The track skirts a few trees and enters another field above the College Fields housing estate. Turn left (houses below on your right) and follow the field edge until you finally descend to a small road.
- 10 Turn right and keep going until you reach the A4 opposite the College Chapel, then left back to the High Street.

Distance: generously 3.5 miles.

Karen Osborne Cooks with a Broken Arm

This time last year I fell on black ice and broke my right arm. In case anyone has the same bad luck this year, I now have a few tips to pass on about how to produce tasty meals with only one arm over Christmas.

I had a good start, as my freezer was full of soups and other dishes I had cooked in advance of the festive season. John, my husband, discovered the ready made meals at **Cook** in the High Street and proudly served up *Partridge with Pear in Wine Sauce* on Christmas night as if he had conjured it up himself.

But after the festive season we felt like simpler fare and John felt hungry enough to have a go at improvising in the kitchen. Excellent though he is at washing up and other chores, he had to brush up his elementary knowledge in the art of cookery, and needed my help. This was one of our combined efforts:

Cauliflower Cheese

First catch a husband, stand over him and instruct him in the art of breaking a cauliflower into small florets. (*“What’s a floret?” he asked.*) Show him how to peel and chop up a clove of garlic into small pieces without cutting himself.

Throw all this into a roasting pan and sprinkle with cumin (generously) and salt and pepper and pour over some olive oil. Make sure that husband gets his fingers in the trough so that all the cauliflower is covered in the oil. Then put the dish in a pre-heated oven (200 degrees) for about 30 minutes. After 20 minutes add a few small tomatoes cut in half (by husband).

Meanwhile preheat an oven-proof dish, and transfer the roasted ingredients to it. Add a few chopped olives and some small pieces of cooked ham (left over from weekend lesson of baked gammon – tricky for husband but worth doing as it produces several meals). Add a few tablespoonfuls of crème fraiche and mix it all together. Sprinkle the dish with dried breadcrumbs and cover with some grated cheddar cheese. Return to the oven and cook for about 20 minutes. Get husband to serve.

We both agreed that this was tasty and worth repeating with two arms, or by an unsupervised husband.

What's on in December & January

Regular Events

Every Monday

7.30pm Christchurch. Marlborough Choral Society.

Every Tuesday

10-11.30am Christchurch. Friendship Club.

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

Every Wednesday

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

10.30am-12noon Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. Sing for the Brain. Alzheimer's Support Group. 01225776481. (Every Thurs during term-time)

1.30-3.30pm The Bear. 'Talking about books'. Contact: 563480.

1.30-3.30pm Wesley Hall, Christchurch. Macular Society (last Thursday)

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

December Calendar

Until 12th Dec

2-5pm Mount House, Marlborough College. Art exhibition commemorating WWI: 'With New-Won Eyes'

Until 20th Dec

11am-4.00pm Merchant's House, exhibition to commemorate the outbreak of the Great War. Every day except Sunday

Mon 1st Dec

12 for 12.30 Kennet Valley Hall, Embroiderers' Guild Christmas Lunch and Surprise Speaker.

7pm Town Hall. Live from National Gallery, London, *Rembrandt*. £13 in advance, £15 on the door.

Tues 2nd, Thurs

6.30-9.30pm Theatre-on-the-Hill, St John's, *Beauty and the Beast*.

4th, Fri 5th Dec

£8.75, £6.75 (concessions), £28 (family)

Thurs 4th Dec

7.30pm Town Hall film, *The Invisible Woman* (12A). £5 in advance, £6 on the door.

7.30pm Wesley Hall, Oxford St, WI Christmas & 5th birthday celebration.

Fri 5th Dec

7.30pm St Peter's Church, concert, Marlborough Big Band (on behalf of Ontrack), 513950.

Sat 6th Dec

7.30pm St Mary's Church, concert, Marlborough Concert Orchestra. £8 (£1.50 for students).

- Mon 8th Dec** 11am Ellendune Community Centre, Wroughton, Kennet DFAS lecture by Anna Hallet, *Have you seen my hobby horse?* 01793 840790.
7.15pm Bouverie Hall, Pewsey, Pewsey Vale DFAS AGM and lecture by Caroline Rayman, *Three Great Families & Their Gardens*. 810956.
- Wed 10th Dec** 12.30-3pm 40 St Martins, Widows' Friendship Christmas Lunch. Contact Pauline Berryman 514030.
7.30pm Town Hall film, *Queen Rock Montreal* (12A) £10 in advance, £12 on the door.
7.45pm Wesley Hall, Oxford St, Gardening Association Pot Luck Supper and Quiz.
- Fri 12th Dec** Marlborough College term ends
- Sat 13th Dec** 7.30pm St Mary's Church, Marlborough Choral Society Christmas Concert. £8 (U16 free).
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- Sun 14th Dec** 7.30pm St Peter's Church, concert, Erdem Misirlioglu (piano). £10 (£8 for members of MBG)
7.30pm Kennet Valley Hall, film, *Belle*. Tickets in advance from Carolyn 861373
- Tues 16th Dec** 7.15pm Town Hall. Live from ROH, ballet, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. £15 in advance, £17.50 on the door
- Thurs 18th Dec** 8pm Town Hall. Recorded from NT *John*. £13 in advance, £15 on the door
- Fri 19th Dec** St John's term ends

January Calendar

- Mon 5th Jan** St John's term starts.
2pm Kennet Valley Hall, Embroiderers' Guild, talk, *Papers Are Textiles Too*, Helen Thomas
- Tues 6th Jan** Marlborough College term starts
- Wed 7th Jan** 7.30pm Wesley Hall, Oxford St, WI talk on Macmillan Cancer Support
- Fri 9th Jan** 7.30pm Theatre-on-the-Hill, film *How To Train Your Dragon* (PG) £3, £5 (adults)
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- Sun 11th Jan** 3pm Memorial Hall, Marlborough College, Grimethorpe Colliery Band
- Mon 12th Jan** 7.30pm Bouverie Hall, Pewsey, lecture *Famous Husbands & Talented Wives*, Catherine Wallace
- Tues 13th Jan** 7pm Town Hall, Exhibition on Screen *Girl With The Pearl Earring* £13 in advance, £15 on the door.
- Wed 14th Jan** 7.45pm Wesley Hall, Christchurch, Gardening Association talk *Tales From A Small Garden*, Timothy Walker.
12.30pm 40 St Martins, Widows' Friendship Lunch. Contact Pauline Berryman 514030

- Sat 17th Jan** 8pm St Mary's Church Hall, concert, Folk Roots.
- ~~~~~
- Sun 18th Jan** 7.30pm St Peter's Church, concert, John Paul Ekins (piano), £10
(£8 for members of MGB)
- Mon 19th Jan** 11am Ellendune Community Hall, Wroughton, Kennet DFAS
lecture *Lapis Lazuli*, Sarah Seawright
- Tues 20th Jan** 10-12.30pm Grid Ref SU198679, Plant Life, New Year woodland
walk, Savernake Forest. Booking essential via Wild About Plants
website or phone 01722 342759
- Thurs 22nd Jan** 7.30pm Town Hall film, *To Wong Foo. Thanks For Everything* (PG).
£5 in advance, £6 on the door

Elgar Cockaigne Overture
Dvořák Symphony No. 8
Butterworth The Banks of Green Willow
Holst 'Jupiter' from The Planets

MCO

Marlborough Concert Orchestra
Saturday 6 December 2014 7.30pm
St Mary's Church, Marlborough

Tickets £8 adults, £1.50 students
Available from Sound Knowledge, Hughenden Yard

Marlborough Choral Society
Saturday 13th December at 7.30pm
St Mary's Church, Marlborough

Tickets: £8 (U16 free)
Refreshments available

Schubert *Mass in G*
Finzi *In Terra Pax*
Chilcott *On Christmas Night*

Contact Jane Scott on 01672 511880

Family News from your local community: Audrey Peck

Ann Sargant emailed with the sad news that her mother, **Margaret Vale**, has died, aged 94. She had been a widow since WW2 when Ann's father was one of the prisoners of war in the Far East who did not return. When John and Ann were here at Preshute Margaret gave them her full support in family and parish life and she was a devoted helper at the Jubilee Centre.

My family are proud of **Caroline** (Carrie) because never having played an instrument she joined the Phoenix Band in January and, in her more mature years, managed to learn to play the baritone horn AND play it while marching along the High Street and down New Road in the Remembrance Day Parade. Sian, her daughter, recorded a short video as evidence to show her sceptical friends. She wants me to mention their Christmas Concert in Froxfield Village Hall on Dec 21st at 3 pm

Remembrance Day was especially relevant to me because my dad joined the Wiltshire Regiment on Aug 11th 1914. He came home physically fit but having suffered shell shock which returned for a short time about 10 years later.

It was really nice to see **Gerald Smith** at the parade. He has been unable to walk for three months after his knee op. Let's hope he will get back to driving for LINK.

Margaret and Tony Killick's daughter, **Julia**, is spending a year in Abu Dhabi. She is having a career break from her publishing job and is teaching music. She is working at the International Music Institute in Abu Dhabi. She has been there just over two months and is really loving it, although apart from a flute choir which she has joined, it is slow going getting to know people outside her job. The family are looking forward to seeing her again at Christmas.

On 30th October, after a battle with cancer **Mark O'Brien** passed away. The 32 year old husband of Peta O'Brien, the Devotion leader with the Marlborough churches, Mark will be sadly missed.

His funeral at Christchurch on 11th November was a celebration of his life and the church was packed with family and friends. We continue to pray for Peta and his 2 year old son Ethan.

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## CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2014

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

### **Sunday, 14th December**

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

### **Sunday, 21st December**

10.30am Carol Service (Christchurch, Marlborough)

4.00pm Carol Service (St Mary's, Marlborough)

6.00pm Candle-lit Carol Service (St George's, Preshute)

### **Monday, 22nd December**

7.30pm A Quieter Christmas (St Mary's, Marlborough)

### **Christmas Eve – Wednesday, 24th December**

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)

10.00pm First Eucharist of Christmas (St George's, Preshute)

11.30pm Midnight Communion (St Mary's, Marlborough)

11.30pm Midnight Communion (Christchurch, Marlborough)

### **Christmas Day – Thursday, 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)

10.00am Family Communion (St Mary's, Marlborough)

10.00am Family Communion (St George's, Preshute)

10.00am Family Communion (St John the Baptist, Minal)

10.30am All Age Worship for Christmas (Christchurch, Marlborough)

10.30am Quakers' Meet (Friends' Meeting House, Marlborough)

11.00am Christmas Mass (St Thomas More, Marlborough)

### **Saturday, 27th December**

6.00pm First Mass of Sunday (Holy Family Church, Pewsey)

### **Sunday, 28th December**

8.00am Holy Communion (St Mary's, Marlborough)

10.00am Team Communion (St George's, Preshute)

10.30am Section Service (Christchurch, Marlborough)

11.00am Sunday Mass (St Thomas More, Marlborough)

Currently we have some advertising space available.  
Do you know any businesses that would like to take  
advantage of the Tower & Town circulation?  
If so, ask them to contact our Advertising Manager  
(details page 28)

# News from the Churches for December and January

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## Carol and Christmas Services:

Please see page 18 for dates and times for the individual churches.

## In December St Mary's Church will be hosting:

- 6<sup>th</sup> December Marlborough Concert Orchestra at 7.30pm
- 12<sup>th</sup> December St Mary's Infant School Nativity at 2.00pm
- 13<sup>th</sup> December Marlborough Choral Society at 7.30pm
- 16<sup>th</sup> December Mencap Carol Service at 6.00pm
- 18<sup>th</sup> December St John's School Celebration at 7.00pm
- 19<sup>th</sup> December St Peter's School Christmas Service at 9.30am

## And at The Town Hall:

- 14<sup>th</sup> December Macmillan Carol Service at 7.30pm with Kennet Brass Band

## At St Mary's Church, A Quieter Christmas Service:

- 22<sup>nd</sup> December Monday, 7.30pm. 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.

## Monthly Sunday Seniors Lunch Club:

The Seniors' Lunch Club will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2014 and 25<sup>th</sup> January 2015 starting at 12noon in Christchurch. To reserve a place please contact the Church Office at Christchurch 513701.



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

### December 2014

- 7<sup>nd</sup> Rev Heather Cooper
- 9<sup>th</sup> Eileen Gilbert - Advent Service
- 16<sup>th</sup> Carols and mince pies

### January 2015

- 13<sup>th</sup> Members Meeting
- 20<sup>th</sup> Heather Cooper
- 27<sup>th</sup> Father John Blacker



## News from the Churches (cont.)

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### Marlborough Churches Together Fraternal Meetings

Will be held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December and Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January. Please contact MCT Secretary, Alison Selby, (alison.selby@crossmead.net) if you would like any issues raised.



### Posada

If you would like to host one of the knitted 'Holy Families' during December please contact Andrew Studdert-Kennedy [andrewsk1959@btinternet.com](mailto:andrewsk1959@btinternet.com) or **514357**. The Holy Families will be brought together at the 3.00pm Crib Service on Christmas Eve in St Mary's. Don't forget to look out for the Holy Family set travelling along the North side of the High Street and the Three Kings travelling along the South side during December.

### Filling Station

For information about the December and January Filling Station at St Peter's School, Marlborough, please contact Vincent and Helen Stokes at [hcstokes@gmail.com](mailto:hcstokes@gmail.com)



### Hangout Devotion

The youth club is held in the Wesley Hall on Thursday evenings from 7 to 8.30pm on: 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December and 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> January. Please continue to pray for Peta, the helpers and for the children who come along. More details from [devotionyouthproject@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:devotionyouthproject@hotmail.co.uk)

Hangout Devotion

### Book Club:

Next meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2015 in Mustard Seed at 7.30pm. To discuss: *Tails I Lose* by Justyn Rees Larcombe.

### Epiphany Carol Service:

Marlborough Churches Together invite you to join them on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at Christchurch, 4.00pm.



### Methodist Covenant Service:

The Covenant Service will be held at Christchurch on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January, 10.30am .

## News from the Churches (cont.)

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### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 18<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> January 2014:**

Please join us for a Quaker style service on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2015 at 7.30pm in Friends' Meeting House, The Parade, Marlborough.

### **Prayer Time for those less fortunate:**

At this festive season, spare a thought and a prayer for our friends in West Africa where the terror of Ebola haunts people's lives, and in South Sudan where violence and fear persist. We think particularly of our many friends in the Gambia where Ebola in nearby countries has greatly reduced the tourist numbers and where there are serious worries about the crops after bad rains.

### **Lent Talks 2015 - diary dates**

Revd Sue Armitage will be coordinating another 'Week of Guided Prayer' during the first week of Lent 23<sup>rd</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> February.

Marlborough Churches Together have organised a series of talks based on the psalms on the four Wednesday evenings in March 2015 (4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>.) with a visiting speaker Rev. Dr. Knut M. Heim from Trinity College Bristol.

All the meetings will be held at Christchurch 7.30pm. More details on these events will follow in February's Tower and Town.

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### **An Old Bulgarian Song of the Yule Log**

*with an acknowledgement to Mercia MacDermott, from 'Bulgarian Folk Customs'*

I am a little golden tree, a golden fruitful tree;  
I shall grow right up to the sky,  
My boughs will drop to earth;  
My leaves will sprout pearls,  
My flowers will be pure silver,  
And my fruit will be pure gold.

The Young God will descend by me  
And will give good gifts:  
To the maiden a tiny pearl,  
To the mother pure silver  
And to the father pure gold,  
A house full of children,  
Lambs, calves, foals and lion-maned bees.  
Life, health and jollity!









## Marlborough Churches Together

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### Usual Sunday service times.

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#### **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 Parish Communion or Non-Eucharistic Worship

11.30am Matins (2nd, 4th and 5th 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 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday)

10.00am All Age Worship (1st Sunday)

Parish Communion, Junior Church & 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 & Sat

Holy Days: 10.00am

## Marlborough Church Contacts

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Salisbury Cathedral Christmas Services

Christmas Eve

Monday 24 December

7.30am Morning Worship with Holy Communion

4.00pm Family Service with nativity*

6.00pm Evensong

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

Tuesday 25 December

8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Sung Eucharist

3.00pm Festal Evensong

From the Registers

Baptism:

26 Oct - Harry Dennis Wakeham at *St John the Baptist*
Zachary Peter Alan Bird at *St Mary's*

Departed:

8 Oct – June Anise Brown (89) of 25 Homefields, Marlborough
Kingsdown Crematorium

20 Oct – Samuel 'Sam' Michael Keith (20) of Dunsford House, Uffcott
St Mary's and Semington Crematorium

23 Oct – Brian John Legg (80) of 57 Rogers Meadow, Marlborough
St Mary's and Marlborough Cemetery

28 Oct - Gladys 'Bobby' May Wareham (96) of Merlin Court Care Home,
Marlborough
Kingsdown Crematorium

29 Oct – Darryl Quentin Black (68) of 9 Isbury Road, Marlborough
St Mary's and Marlborough Cemetery

2014/2015 Marlborough College Concert Series

World Class Musicians in Marlborough

Programme for the coming year includes

The Nash Ensemble of London, Wells Cathedral Choir, John Lill (piano),
Grimethorpe Colliery Band and Southbank Sinfonia.

More information from www.marlboroughconcertseries.org

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Contributions and comments from readers are always 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 and Town* must be submitted by **Tuesday 13 January**.

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