
TOWER_{AND}TOWN

St. John's Edition



Crisis

NOVEMBER 2015 50P



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TOWER AND TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

NUMBER 654 NOVEMBER 2015



Crisis

What is a crisis? Dictionary definitions make use of words such as 'unexpected', 'danger' and 'intense difficulty'. A crisis can be personal, something that you have to find your way through alone. It can be something that envelops a whole community. It can - as recent global events would testify - be something that affects multiple nations. And in all cases, a crisis can be life changing.

From my perspective, this year's articles are among the strongest we have ever fielded. All six of this year's St John's contributors are Year 9 students; all six have written with a maturity and sense of compassion that belies their mere thirteen or fourteen years.

Max Murphy's 'When the Lights Go Out' is masterful, highly individual and raises many questions. In 'Life Itself,' Kate Davies gives us an insight into the mind of a student who is buckling beneath the weight of parental and peer expectation, whilst Anna Strover's 'Ugly' deals with the age-old issue of being 'different'. Charlie Galley, inspired by the Sassoon poem 'Suicide in the Trenches', explores the horrific living conditions that drove so many soldiers to take their own lives. And Ted Mercer, inspired by the style of the Armitage poem 'Out of the Blue', has cleverly crafted his poem 'Yesterday's News,' speaking through the eyes of a refugee on a doomed quest for a better life. Olivia McLean also chose to base her prose piece, the ironically titled 'Journey to Freedom', upon this topical and highly emotive subject.

The St John's ethos is based upon the principles of global citizenship. This edition forms a beautiful example of how our students are able to embrace challenge, empathise with others, and to understand and seek to explore the world around them. As ever, I feel so privileged – and proud - to have worked with these talented young writers, and I hope you enjoy reading their articles as much as I have.

Georgie Hibberd, Editor

Front Cover compiled by Kristina Payne; includes images from:

The Shipwreck by J M W Turner (1805)

Poppies by Jim McConnon, 2015 winner of the art competition run by the homeless charity Crisis

When the Lights Go Out by Max Murphy

On your side of the world, at the push of a button you can see; at the flick of a switch all your fears go away, huge arms reaching up to the sky and looking down with eyes of light. How could you be afraid?

On my side, it's dark. When the sun starts to fall you have to be fast, you have to outrun the monsters at your heels and even when you're safe - you're not. It's like looking out through a window when it's dark. All your wildest nightmares come true through that window, and knowing they're not real is no comfort.

Our loved ones cry and scream and beg, but that won't bring back the light. We can't help them. Not here. We can't fight back the shadows with torches or beacons. Here the night wins.

On your side it's day when you say it is and night when you demand it. Your chariots of light can find the way even in the darkest shadows and corners.

On my side, day is one world and night is another, you can't be caught by surprise by the night or you find yourself trapped and suffocating. Your children could be a few feet away or worlds apart; how are you to know? There's no point looking or shouting, the night has found its prey and won't let go. The only thing you can do is wait. That's the worst part. All the nightmares and horrors are out there in your mind and the waiting nearly drives you mad, makes you want to lash out and scream, but you can't make a noise, you mustn't make a noise. The night is a world of silence, a silence so horrible that it starts to buzz in your ears and send knives at your mind, but if you were to break it, the silence after that would be all the more terrifying.

On your side the shadows that scare you are controlled and shackled like a tame beast.

On my side the shadows are free to roam and have never known the feel of resistance, never been challenged or questioned. They come into our home, our mind, our family and what can we do?

What scares me most is when the glow of the sun fades, when the roaring of the light goes silent, when the darkness come out to play. When the lights go out.

Life Itself by Kate Davies

Good luck is what they said. Good luck cards are what they sent. Good luck is all he is going to get, they thought.

The realisation of it all only hit me when I walked into the exam room. Is this really how planned life is? To be chosen to do a certain thing, to be routed towards a certain university, to know you will be living to wake up every day to try to fulfil your potential? How inhumane everybody has become, to be only thinking about money. Because that's all it comes down to, in the end.

It shocks me when people say, "I can't wait to grow up." They aren't aware of how precious life is. The even sadder part is that they will be gone without realising that life itself would have been so much better if they had truly lived it.

I think about life itself a lot. Whether I am making the right decision about studying, and if maybe one day I could settle down...even make a family. Or if I have wasted all these years of school, when I could have been somewhere that would have made me so much happier. But what would make my life worth living for?

What does the expression 'I want to be free' actually mean? Because let's face it, it doesn't mean to travel the world, or to simply do whatever you want without fear of rules. No...to be 'free' is to get rid of all the things that you don't want in you. To escape the physical and emotional brain that controls you.

But how am I meant to do that?

In the dining room, my parents sit impatiently in front of me, staring at the simple piece of paper that will determine my whole life. Mother starts to fidget; Father starts to drum with his fingertips. I start to sweat. They implore, demand and command me to open the envelope, but right now, I just don't know what to think.

It's not what I wanted. I wanted to feel better about myself, but instead, I feel nothing. My mother is crying: "I knew you could do it!" she chants. Father beams there before me, the happiest man alive. And I want to feel proud of myself for getting all those A*s, but in truth, all I feel is emptiness.

Why can I not be like everybody else? I want to be happy. I want to be free.



Ugly by Anna Stover

With my head down, I stumbled through the grimy doors into what most people refer to as school. Like predators observing their prey before the kill, they looked at me. Not the kind of look that was friendly. Not the kind of look you would get if you were new. A kind of look that was just nasty.

Shamefully, I walked down the school hall, my body drooping and looking like a rag doll. “Watch where you’re going, you retarded animal.”

I didn’t have to look up, I knew instantly who it was: my number one bully. Unfortunately, I knew her so well, although this was nothing to be proud of. Quickly, without a word I scuttled off, my head hanging low so no one could see my face.

You are probably wondering right now why people treat me this way. I will tell you why. My face. My scarringly ugly face. So stretched, yet crinkled up at the same time. Just because I look this way, doesn’t mean that I’m not a perfectly normal young girl who just wants friends to play and laugh around with. But the girls in my year obviously feel different about that.

The bell! I mournfully slid into my seat as a teacher rambled on about whatever they need to in order to get a salary. I didn’t hear any of it. I don’t even try. All day, every day, this is my life: the same for days, weeks, months.

On the 28th May I stumble once more into the place some people like to refer to as school. *Another day to get through* – that’s all I can think of at this point. The same things happen. I receive those hateful looks, and I sit sorrowfully in class watching the clock ticking by. But as I take a minute to glance up to check how much longer I have to endure this hell, I catch eyes with a girl, a girl I’ve never seen before.

She gives me the most heart-warming, beaming smile as she confidently strolls past me. Gradually, I lift my whole head up. A smile (even though you can’t really tell) starts to form on my face.

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Living Hell by Charlie Galley

Inspired by 'Suicide in the Trenches' by Siegfried Sassoon

Dear Family,

I'm sorry. I've done my best. But this place, dripping with mud as cold and heartless as the men who pull the trigger to end lives, is too much to cope with. The rats are a nightmare; at night, I often hear terrible screams, and I wake to find men with rats gnawing at feet, rotten with disease contracted from daily life in the trenches.

I'm angry. I'm angry at the stupid men who started this. I'm also sad, sad for all the people who died in this worldwide horror. I'm scared, scared that others won't have the relief I soon will experience. I'm also scared about what I'm about to do. What will I feel, what will I see? Is there anything on the other side?

You're not going to see me again. I can't stand it. I understand if you'll hate me for this. I would - after all, I am a coward. But I've got to escape. Escape this living hell that men somehow managed to conjure up to settle feuds between countries.

I've only got one way out. I would have never thought I would only make it to 22 years old. But it is fate. Not the best, not pleasant. But unavoidable.

I'm sorry.

Goodbye.

Charlie X



Yesterday's News by Ted Mercer

Quick, the water, the water
It's flooding the boat
Someone get a bucket...
But there aren't any.
"Find the life jackets! Save the children!"

The children.

We're starting to sink,
Scream for help
Help!
Help!
There's too many in the boat,
Scream and shout
But they won't come
They don't care any more.
We have to go back
No, no...I can't go back, not there
Not again
They beat me. They destroyed my home.

I will not go back.

"Jump! Jump for your lives!"
We may perish in these cold, forsaken waters
But I can't go back.
Darkness.

*They chucked my body in a truck.
And a news reporter told the story.
But he does not know.
He does not care for me.*

I am yesterday's news.

"...you have to understand,
that no one puts their children in a boat
unless the water is safer than the land..."
Somali-born poet Warsan Shire

A Journey to Freedom by Olivia McLean

In the darkness, far out to sea, the only sound I hear is that of the waves lapping against the flimsy dinghy. There must be one hundred of us jammed together like sandwiches, in a tiny boat, fit for maybe twenty at best. Even the children are silent, terrified to move, let alone make a sound. The smugglers surround us, the tin to our sardines. I sit perfectly still as instructed by my parents, squeezing my younger brother's hand on one side and my younger sister's on the other. My parents hold the babies, praying that they don't wake and scream for food. The air is freezing out here in the middle of the ocean, even though it is September. I gaze up at the stars contemplating the horrors I have witnessed - visions a child of thirteen should not have seen. But I must be strong, although I am secretly just as scared as my brother and sister. I have been told to look after them, and to be brave.

Our journey began many hours before, at dusk. I was excited yet apprehensive, having been told that we were going on a special holiday. However, our belongings were rather scarce and I soon worked out what was happening. A three hour bus journey took us to the northern tip of Egypt; many families were herded into a tiny boat. We paid a massive sum to some men who promised they would help us reach the freedom of Italy. We realised that the journey would be perilous- we would reach Italy in five or six days. But my parents' faces told a story of fear. I could sense their terror that we might not even survive the first night.

My thoughts are brought to an abrupt end. Whilst the dinghy had been bobbing along in the pitch darkness, the motion alters suddenly and the boat begins to lurch violently, up and down, side to side. The wind has picked up, and the silence of the open sea is broken by the cries of panic and despair. Life jackets had been limited so some of us shared them. I hold on tightly to my siblings. Then the dinghy is overcome by the sheer force of the waves - it rolls to the left, and then we are all thrown screaming into the angry sea, like a deck of cards collapsing. I desperately try to hold on to my brother and sister, and we somehow manage to cling to some luggage to keep us afloat. For what seems like an eternity, I hold on, barely staying above the water...and then I see it. Am I dreaming? A faint light appears in the distance. My eyes begin to close.



Readers' Letters

To Mr Andrew Unwin, Editor, Tower and Town Issue 652

Dear Sir,

I read with humour *Growing Old (Dis)Gracefully?* and especially Jenny Joseph's poem *Warning*. I had wanted it read out at the Women's Fellowship Members' meeting last term but couldn't find it, so I shared with the ladies my humorous response to the real poem that was read at Rev. Sheila Nunn's funeral - sadly she didn't grow old, but died sharing her humour and love of life. I enclose a copy of my response to the poem and a copy of another elderly person's funny poem for those born before 1940 - that's me, I'm 80!

I also loved Robert Browning's *Rabbi Ben Ezra* presented by Rev. Canon. Andrew Studdert-Kennedy. I learnt it at school and answered an exam question about the quotation - discuss! Now I am old and have understood 'the best is yet to come' and 'grow old along with me'; I'm lucky enough to have not only my husband but two adorable grandchildren who give us great joy. I'm sure all grandparents will share my thoughts.

Thank you for Edition no. 652 and I look forward to the next - 'the best is yet to be', Ha! Ha!

Yours faithfully

Eileen M. Gilbert, (President, Women's Fellowship)

As mentioned in her letter she appends two attachments:

Attachment 1: 'When I am Old...' (*Warning* by Jenny Joseph)

I have a copy of it but I can't find it so this is my response.....

I have the purple outfit, but not the little red hat! My stick is disguised as an umbrella, bought by accident but it's there 'just in case'. I'll never run it along the railings - I couldn't run the risk of spoiling the silk - but I could jump the queue if I were desperate for the loo! And on the plane I could 'cough and spit' into my in-flight kit and then dispose of the tissues in their - er - bin; definitely not in their W.C., because the aircraft notice reads: "Only our special toilet tissues may be placed in our loos" because of our plumbing. So - because I'm old, I can't figure it out and am wondering what to do about the - er - POO? Ha! Ha!

An ambiguous notice and my idiot sense of humour. Well, you've got to have a laugh!

Eileen M. Gilbert (Mrs)

Attachment 2: A comment 'We are survivors' (for those born before 1940)

We were born before television, before penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, videos, Frisbees and the pill. We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ball point pens; before dishwashers, tumble driers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip dry clothes....and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together (how quaint can you be?). We thought fast food was what you ate in Lent, a 'Big Mac' was an oversized raincoat and 'crumpet' was what we had for tea. We existed before househusbands, computer dating, dual careers, and when a 'meaningful relationship' meant getting along with cousins, and where 'sheltered accommodation' was where you waited for the bus.

We were before day care centres, group homes and disposable nappies. We had never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electronic typewriters, artificial hearts, yoghurt and young men wearing earrings. For us 'time sharing' meant togetherness, a chip was a piece of wood or fried potato, hardware meant nuts and bolts and 'software' wasn't a word.

Before 1940 'Made in Japan' just meant junk, the term 'making out' was how you did in your exams, 'stud' was something that fastened a collar to a shirt, and going all the way meant staying on a bus to the depot. In our day, cigarette smoking was fashionable, 'grass' was mown and 'coke' was kept in the coal house. A 'joint' was eaten for Sunday lunch, and 'pot' was something you cooked in. 'Rock music' was a grandmother's lullaby, 'Eldorado' was an ice cream, whilst a 'gay person' was the life and soul of the party.

We who were born before 1940 must be a hardy bunch, when you think of the way in which the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make. No wonder we are confused and there is a generation gap today....but

By the Grace of God we have survived. Alleluia!!!

People targeted repeatedly with pension scams, say Citizens Advice

Over 55s are being repeatedly contacted with cold-calls and emails offering fraudulent pension opportunities, warns Citizens Advice.

Over four months after the pension reforms came into effect, figures from the national consumer body find that two in five Citizens Advice pensions staff across England and Wales have seen people targeted repeatedly with pension scams.

Albert Ball, Project Manager at Wiltshire Citizens Advice Pension Wise said: “Pension scams threaten people’s financial security. Scammers are finding new ways to go after people’s pension pots including offering free pension reviews and promising to invest funds that don’t necessarily exist. If you’ve had an offer or signed up to a pension scheme you’re unsure about, I urge you to contact your local Citizens Advice where our staff can offer free help and support.”

Citizens Advice offers Pension Wise guidance where people aged over 50 can access free face to face guidance sessions. To book an appointment call 01722 580052



Kennet Valley Arts Trust



Films and Theatre

Thursday, 5th November

Marlborough Town Hall at 7.30pm. 'A Royal Night Out' (12)

Thursday 12th November

Marlborough Town Hall at 7.15pm. Live from The Royal Ballet:
'Viscera/Afternoon of a Faun/Tchaikovsky's pas de deux/Carmen'

Thursday, 26th November

Marlborough Town Hall at 7.15pm. Live from The Garrick Theatre:
'The Winter's Tale'

Tickets on line from www.kvat.co.uk, or from The White Horse Bookshop or Sound Knowledge. Also tickets at the door for films.

Clergy Letter by Bob Toogood

Dear Friends,

November is the start of winter and the whole month can feel like an animal going into deep hibernation as Summer Time has ended; the trees shed their leaves; birds fly south on their migrations to warmer climes; and to the lay person, farmers are less visibly active as their preparations for winter are completed.

For many people perhaps the words of the poem ring true:

No sun - no moon!

No morn - no noon -

No dawn - no dusk - no proper time of day.

No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,

No comfortable feel in any member -

No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,

No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds! -

November

Thomas Hood (1789-1845)

However, for those who live in rural areas, the rhythm of the seasons with its annual cycle of change; of growth and decline; of birth and death, retains its importance in our thinking and our very being. While understanding and appreciating the sentiments of Hood's words, the negativity of its tone does not ring true. For we know that without the die-back of autumn and the restful winter there can be no birth and growth in spring and flourishing in summer.

Perhaps it is in the words of the Old Testament book, Ecclesiastes 3:1, that we find a better explanation:

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

Importantly this sets out the very nature of the world and the practicalities of the changing nature of the times. The writer goes on to list differing ways in which we may spend our time and then, having stated that this is the way God has made the world, he explains that God has made 'everything suitable for its time' and that he has 'put a sense of past and future into our minds'.

I believe this is the annual cycle of natural change that we see all around us and it is mirrored in the cycle of festivals and seasons in the Church. Once again, November brings the end of the church year as we complete this cycle and prepare for rebirth. This month we keep All Souls, remembering the dearly departed; Remembrance, the fallen in wars; and the celebration of Christ the King, the kingship of Jesus and the culmination of His being.

God bless.

What's on in November

Regular events

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.

November calendar

1st (Sunday)

10am-4pm: St Peter's Church. Last day of ARK Photographic Competition Exhibition.

4pm: St Mary's Church. All Souls Service.

Marlborough College end of half term.

2nd (Monday)

St John's Academy: Start of Term 2

2pm: Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. Talk by Meike Laurenson: 'M

4th (Wednesday)

7.30pm: Wesley Hall, Oxford. Lecture by Dr Paul Sieviens: 'M Express'.

5th (Thursday)

7.30pm: Town Hall. Film: 'A F advance, £6 on door.

6th (Friday)

6.30-9.30pm: St Mary's Church.

7th (Saturday)

2.30pm: Wiltshire Museum, Devizes. Archaeological & National History Cornwall: 'The Wiltshire Region' £6.50 (Members £4)

8th (Sunday)

11.15am: St Mary's Church. Eucharistic Service.

7.30pm: Marlborough College. Owen & Katya Apekisheva (p)

9th (Monday)

7.30pm: Bouverie Hall, Pewsey. Lecture by Sam Moorhead: 'T 163.

11th (Wednesday)

12.30pm: 40 St Martins. Wido 514030.

7.45pm: Wesley Hall. Garden Mason: 'Fruit Trees'.

12th (Thursday)

7.15pm: Town Hall. Live from a Faun/Tchaikovsky pas de c £17.50 on door.

7.30pm: St Mary's Church, G of Kathleen Ferrier: Her life, l

Lockeridge. Embroiderers' Guild.
'Hats & My Hats'.

Street. Marlborough WI.
'Journey on the Orient

'Royal Night Out' (12A). £5 in

ch. Barn Dance & Supper.

Devizes. Wiltshire
History Society. Talk by Michael
'Development Through the Ages'.

Remembrance Sunday

Mem Hall. Concert: Charles
(pianos). £20 (£10 students).

ey. Pewsey Vale DFAS.
'The Frome Hoard'. 07775 683

ows' Friendship Group Lunch.

ing Association. Talk by John

ROH: 'Viscera/Afternoon of
leux/Carmen. £15 in advance,

reat Bedwyn. A Celebration
letters & music.

16th (Monday)

11am: Ellendune Hall, Wroughton. Kennet DAFS.
Lecture by Alice Foster: 'Velasquez and Goya'. 01793
840790.

7.30pm: Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. Lecture by Eric
Gilbert: 'Exploring Iceland & Distant NT Properties'.

19th (Thursday)

7.30pm: St Peter's Church. Marlborough History Society.
Lecture by Nick Baxter: 'Gallipoli 100 Years On'.

22nd (Sunday)

7.30pm: St Peter's Church. Brilliant Young Musicians
concert: Harry Fox (piano) and Judith Choi-Castro
(violin). £10 (£8 members). See page 22

24th (Tuesday)

8pm: Ellis Theatre. Blakett Science Lecture by
Professor Dan Kurtz, Vice President of the Royal
Astronomical Society: 'Planets and Pulsations'. Entry
free. See page 18

26th (Thursday)

7pm: Town Hall. Live from The Garrick Theatre. Dame
Judi Dench in 'The Winter's Tale'. £12 in advance, £14
on door.

Marlborough Churches Together

Please check pages 26 and 27 for special services and events.

Usual Sunday Service times

Christchurch, New Road (Methodist - URC)

9.00am Worship

10.30am Morning Service with Junior Church and 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 (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 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

St Mary's Holy Communion: 10.30 am Wednesday

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

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

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Tower and Town On-line

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 online edition as well as receiving your printed copy, please send your email address to 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 REGISTERS

Baptism

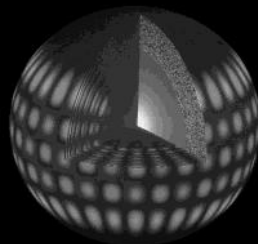
- 20 September Noella Tallini at St George's
18 October Theadora Jane Dobson at St George's

Departed

- 12 August Suzanne Bridget Gough (72) of 7 St John's Close, Marlborough
Kingsdown Crematorium
- 7 September Hilda Victoria Mary Jones (93) of 20 Lawrence Acre, Marlborough
St Mary's and West Wiltshire Crematorium, Semington
- 7 September Dorothea 'Dorothy' Maud James (96) of Merlin Court, formerly of The
Bungalow, Salisbury Road, Marlborough
St Mary's and Kingsdown Crematorium



Blackett Science Lecture



Tuesday 24th November, 8pm Ellis Theatre

Marlborough College

'Planets and Pulsations'

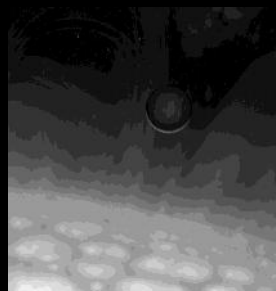
by Professor Dan Kurtz

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Family News compiled by Audrey Peck

Jean Wheeler's daughters, Carolyn and Alison, celebrated her life at a service in Preshute Church in September with family and friends including her five grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Jean grew up in Welsh speaking Newport, Pembrokeshire. She met her husband, Dr Bob, in Ceylon when, in the WRNS, she joined a ship where he was the ship's doctor. They came here after the war to be with Dr Bob's father's practice at 119, High St. At first she helped with patients as the receptionist and occasionally gave first aid. Later he joined the Doctors Maurice at 41, High St. After Bob died in 1978 Jean launched herself in to voluntary work ... Citizens' Advice, Tourist Office, Meals on Wheels and Link. Her favourite was the League of Friends of Savernake Hospital. She is fondly remembered by all who worked with her.

Jenny Wells says that she cared for her mother, **Sylvia Rogers**, for six years before she died in August. Sylvia grew up in the Welsh Valleys in a family of seven. She came to work in Marlborough College in 1949 and met Dave Rogers who was on leave while doing his National Service. They married in the Registry Office in 1951 and lodged with family and friends until they were allocated a house in St. Margaret's Mead where they raised their two sons and two daughters. Condolences to her close and extended family.

June Brinkworth died recently. Her son Steve, a painter and decorator like his late father, told me she was born in India. She met her husband, John, in Ripon. They came here to live in Frees Yard, Salisbury Road in 1970 and then moved to the Mead where their five sons and three daughters grew up. She was Head of Domestic Staff at Savernake Hospital for many years. She lived in Ludgershall at the end of her life. Her main hobby was keeping birds, several indoors, including an owl, and poultry in the garden. Our sympathy to all the family.

Maurice Cooper, formerly twice our Mayor, is back on his feet after a short spell in hospital. He will soon restart his old routine of supporting town organisations including the Friends of Marlborough Scouts which he and Rosemary have worked with for 25 years.

Rita McVittie, who died in July, worked in horse racing mainly in Lambourn and Manton. She will be missed by her friends here because she was a Special Constable in Marlborough and an enthusiastic member of the U3A Poetry Group. She volunteered with Crofton Beam Engines and at the Merchant's House in Marlborough and was a member of the U3A local History Group. She had been Treasurer of the Jubilee Centre. At home Rita had a small holding with a flock of Shetland sheep and other animals. By way of relaxation Rita loved to read, ride her horses and go swimming.

In July we congratulated **Robert Henman** on becoming the UK Kendama (Japanese juggling) Champion. He is now European Champion! He was offered funding to go to Japan to the international competition but declined because it took place in term time.



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**"Brilliant Young International Musicians
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Sunday 22nd November 7.30 pm



Harry Nowakowski-Fox (piano) and Judith Choi-Castro (violin)

Programme includes:

Bach Partita No 2

Chopin Barcarole in F sharp major

Piano Sonata No 21 by Beethoven

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Marlborough Deanery Bitesize Learning Autumn 2015

Mondays at 7.30 pm in the Friends' Meeting House, The Parade Faith and Science

Has Richard Dawkins finally won (or lost) the faith and science debate? Or is there still more to be said? In three evenings we explore different themes that have an impact on how we think about faith, science and their relationship. Led by Rev Janneke Blokland (01672 515970) and John Yates.

Session 1: Monday 2nd November

The Scientific Method: its strengths and limitations. Did Newton believe in miracles?

Session 2: Monday 9th November

Free will: are our lives and actions predestined or not, and does it matter?

Session 3: Monday 16th November

Faith and modern science: the mind-body problem and other philosophical challenges.

Wednesday 4th November at 7.30pm Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge The Last Elephant under the Carpet

Engage with an interactive and stimulating set of questions (accompanied a few glasses of quality wine and copious amounts of coffee and cake) and come and explore the modern approach to death - Café Style! We pose and attempt to answer the question "What does a 'good death' look like and how can we be more prepared practically and spiritually?" Led by Rev Maria Shepherdson.

Wednesday 11th November at 7.30 pm in St. Michael's, Aldbourne The Pity of War

A reading of First World War Poetry for Remembrance-tide led by Canon Andrew Studdert-Kennedy. A chance to hear how poetry changed during the course of the war and to see why it retains its extraordinary power today.

Monday 30th November at 7.30 pm in Ramsbury Churchrooms 'Born Among us'

An opportunity to reflect on Advent & the Nativity through the eyes of Christian artists from around the world. Led by Reverend Simon Weeden. Based on resources from USPG & the Methodist church.

NEWS from the Churches

Marlborough Churches Together: All Souls' Service



At 4pm on Sunday, 1st November in St Mary's. This is a service in which we remember those who have died in the past year where ministers from the Marlborough Churches have been involved in their funerals. However the service is open to everyone. If you would like to acknowledge someone, no matter when or where they died, we welcome you to join us. The service includes the reading of names and the lighting of candles of remembrance.

Remembrance Sunday 8th November



Following the short service at the War Memorial, please join us at the Remembrance Sunday Service in St Mary's Church starting at 11.15am with the Revd Canon Andrew Studdert-Kennedy preaching.

A shorter and more informal Remembrance Service, particularly suitable for children and families, will be held at 5.30pm in St Mary's Church. There will be the regular Sunday services in the other churches.

Poppies



The British Legion red poppy - worn to commemorate the sacrifices of our Armed Forces and to show support to those still serving today and their loved ones - are available in various outlets around the town. The Peace Pledge



Union white poppy - symbolising the belief that there are better ways to resolve conflicts and embodies values that reject killing fellow human beings for whatever reason - will be available from the Friends' Meeting House (Sunday 11.30am - 12 noon) or contact June Buffery (jbuffery@btinternet.com).

Women's Fellowship, Tuesdays at 2.45pm in Christchurch

3rd November	Rev. Heather Cooper
10th November	Food Bank
17th November	Sara Thompson
24th November	Susan Bothamley
1st December	Eileen Gilbert



Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group (MAPAG)

At 7.30pm Monday 16th November in the Friends Meeting House, The Parade, Marlborough at 7.30pm. All welcome to attend the meeting.

Marlborough Churches Together

Advent Carol Service at 6pm on Sunday 29th November at St Thomas More – all welcome to celebrate the start of Advent and the preparation for Christmas.



Fraternal. The MCT Fraternal meetings take place on Wednesdays 4th November and 2nd December. Please contact Alison Selby if you would like a topic discussed at the meeting (alison@crossmead.net).

Filling Station

will meet on Thursday 19th November and welcome Fraser and Polly Nute as their speakers. Fraser and Polly have been living and working in Totnes for over 35 years involved in the leadership of Totnes United Free Church. Fraser is now the Centre Manager for South Hams Christians Against Poverty. From 7.30-9.30 pm at St Peter's Junior School, Marlborough, SN8 1LQ.



Lighting up Marlborough for Christmas

on Friday 20th November. The High Street will be closed to traffic from 5pm – 8pm. As well as switching on the Christmas lights at 7pm, there will be:

Marlborough Communities Market offering lots of goodies from 12noon – 8pm.

Santa in his grotto from 3pm onwards.

Fun stalls and children's rides in the High Street from 5pm.

Annual Schools Christmas Carols Event from 5.30pm at St Mary's Church.

Lantern Parade following Santa's Sleigh at 6.30pm.

Devotion's Tuesday night youth club Hangout@TheMead

Hangout@The Mead

is now reaching thirty young people every week. We are looking for two more individuals to join our friendly team, available at least twice a month on a Tuesday evening from 6 - 10pm. Contact Peta on 07812947754 or at devotionyouthproject@hotmail.co.uk.

Diary dates

Quiet Time During Advent. St Mary's Church will be open for quiet reflection and compline during Advent on Tuesdays: 1st, 8th and 15th December, 7 to 7.30pm, concluding with the Quieter Service for Christmas on 22nd December at 7.00pm.

The Heart of Things: Painting & Sculpture by Paul Hobbs. Postponed from earlier this year, this Art exhibition will take place next spring in St Mary's Church from Friday 29th April to Thursday 5th May.

Tower and Town staff

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December/January

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Compiler	Rob Napier	rob.napier@clara.net	512333

February

Theme	'I remember Marlborough'. All contributions and suggestions via John Osborne		514364
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Every Month

<i>What's On</i>	Karen Osborne	karenos64@btinternet.com	514364
<i>News from the Churches</i>	Alison Selby Crossmead, Kingsbury St, SN8 1HU	alison@crossmead.net	511128
<i>Family News</i>	Audrey Peck 7 Castle Court, Marlborough SN8 1XG	rogandaud@aol.com	289065

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 December/January issue by 10 November please.

Our Advertisers support us. Contact Andrew Unwin if you would like to join them.

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