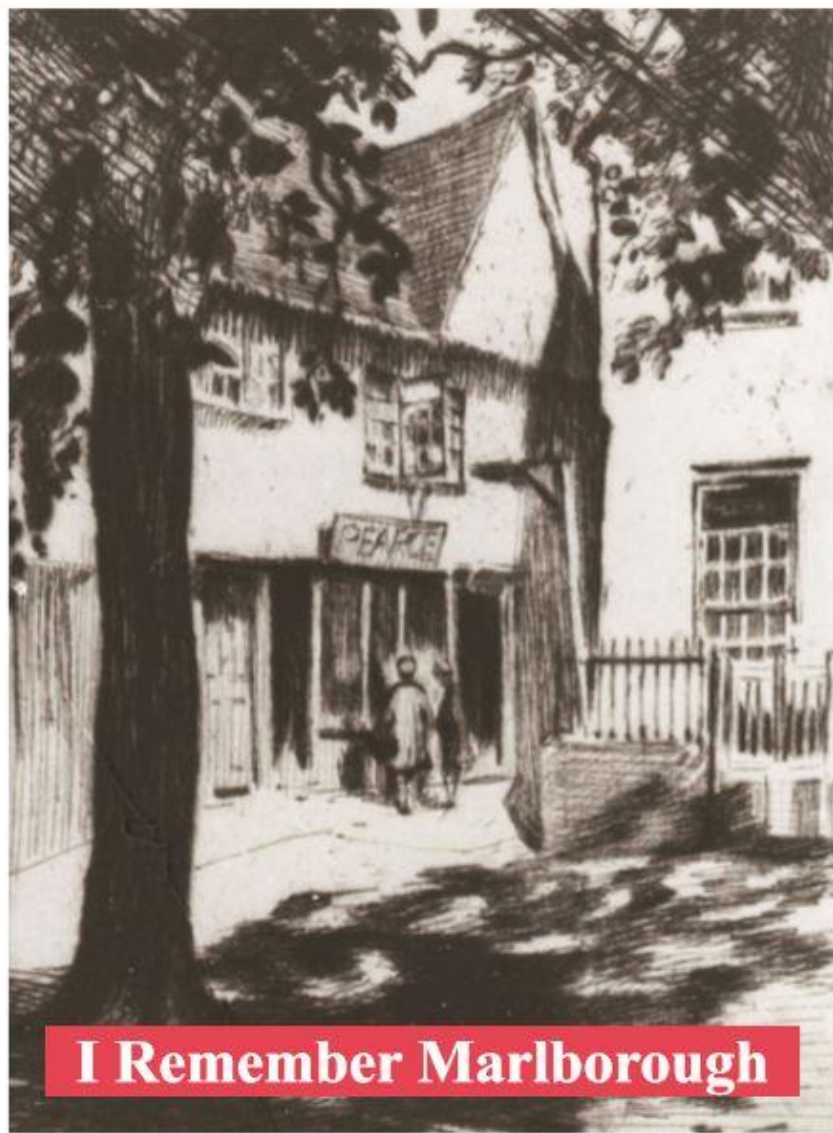

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TOWER AND TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

NUMBER 656 FEBRUARY 2016



Marlborough Remembered

Marlborough, the town that we live in and which we think we know, has a past – say just before the Second World War and just after – that was fascinatingly different from what we see around us today.

In the pieces that follow you will find a Marlborough of small shops, of railway stations, of many more pubs, a Marlborough without supermarkets, without twenty-six boutiques – a town where most of the people who lived here also worked here and vice versa.

We can recover this past through people's memories, get an idea of how Marlborough was and judge how different our environment and our lives are now – still a community, still with its volunteer fire brigade, but with a different flavour.

I thank all those who have talked to me and written for this issue, some of you off your own bat. Don't stop! We'd like more voluntary contributions, please!

I thank Michael Gray, too, who allowed me a sight of the wonderful photo archive in the Merchant's House and filled me in on a score of historical details about the town. The pictures of old Marlborough here are taken from this archive, with his kind permission.

Finally, a big 'thank you' to all the volunteers who have produced, managed and distributed Tower and Town in my time as Chairman, and to you, the subscribers, nearly 700 of you. I retire to the backbenches now as Hugh de Saram takes over as Chair.

John Osborne, Editor

Front Cover: St Mary's Passage from the East © Robert Sivyer
Photograph in the Merchant's House of a drawing by Christopher Hughes

Marlborough Childhood: Mark Clements

Mark Clements from Yorkshire remembers his childhood in Marlborough in the 1960s and 1970s.

One of my earliest memories is my Nan taking me as a toddler to the College playing fields as she lived at the top of Herd Street by the Common. Nearly all my family lived at that time in Marlborough - many Aunts, Uncles, Cousins and my Grandparents. It was handy for a school job to have an Uncle who managed the Tannery and another Uncle who ran Stratton and Son's grocery for another part time job.

St Mary's Infant School in Herd Street was ten yards down from our old house, and so it was an easy introduction to the school run. Other children there told me about the 'Bogey Man' who frequented the alleyway further up from the school and I believed it as any five year old might.

My next school, St Peter's Junior School, was only ten minutes further on down the hill. I remember standing outside in my cap being given the welcome talk on my first day. Playtime was conkers or marbles. Boy, how we wanted to win some of those lovely shiny tractor ball bearings some pupils brought in! Who remembers racing hot rods across the playground? You could cover a great distance across that school playground queuing up and sliding on the ice till it ended up like glass. There were Brooke Bond Tea cards to swop and magnifying glasses to test: how the sun, when focused, melted the rubber on your sole, or made someone jump when you focussed it on their leg. Clacker balls came and left some sore wrists in their wake. You could run like the wind chasing around and have piggy back fights. We'd run and hide from the dinner lady when summoned for dinner.

Swimming was at the outdoor pool next to The Parade: upstairs to the pool surrounded by corrugated panels and with tiered wooden benches. It made me think about life moving on when we sang the school song which ended with "Those who here will meet no more, those returning make more faithful than before."

We relished a quarter of sweets from the sweet shop in The Parade but regretted it later for the toll on our teeth. On the walk home I used to pop in to the little sweet shop at the corner of The Green to see the lady bring out a fresh tray of fudge and break it up with a little hammer before weighing a couple of ounces, paid for with the lovely old pennies.

There were of course other corner shops, Wheeler's in Salisbury Road and Bayden's in St Martins. It wasn't just us who got free bullseyes and chicken claws from Webber's butchers in The Parade. The bullseyes were lenses from cows' eyes and magnified things, and the claws had tendons you could pull to make the claw

Marlborough Childhood (continued)

open and shut.

Mum and Dad at that time had a corner store in Kingsbury Street so we lived above that. Mum awoke me and I stood in the window of our flat in my pyjamas sadly watching the Polly Tearooms ablaze. We had Hillier's fruit and veg shop over the road with the stuffed pike in the glass case. The stuffed bream was in the companion Hillier's shop in The Parade. It was there I made my first foray into theft, taking a handful of child-height monkey nuts...only for them to be discovered by Mum and for me to be marched across the road to give them back to Mr Hillier and to say "Sorry".

My newspaper round comprised taking my sack to Mr Peter Flippence at the office on the corner of Kingsbury Street and Silverless Steet; he printed copies off in his braces in front of you while you waited. If it rained Mum drove me round so that I wasn't a complete ruffy tufty.

Lured by the promise of a medallion I went to one choir practice in St Mary's Church but that was my first and last practice...and so no medallion! Ringing the bells in St Mary's tower was another of my activities, until I realized that Plain Hunt was going to be the limit of my ability and I became slightly uneasy at the several tons of swinging metal I was controlling with the sally. The old tin scout hut was still standing and they did their famous bonfires on November 5th. For the benefit of the person who shouted "Who did that" about forty five years ago, it was me who stupidly threw a firecracker onto the bonfire.

(To be continued in a subsequent edition)

Letter from Ilse Nikolsky

Dear Reader

You will have seen that as of this year T&T is available online and you may have hoped to be the first subscriber on this historical occasion. A keen former Marlborough resident has however beaten you to it and you can be the second subscriber if you hurry. Irene Pielke, who had moved to Yorkshire and asked some time ago if it is possible to read T&T online, is the first and has already read the November and December issues of 2015 as well as earlier editions which are all available. Irene very much enjoys keeping in touch with Marlborough in this way.

The editorial team has decided to give free online access in the first year to encourage others to do likewise. Great News!

Earlier Times in Marlborough: Ann Owen

I was born Ann Rushen in Savernake Hospital in 1942. My father was a milkman. Winters were hard, no salt on the roads and hills almost impassable. There were floods in The Parade. The swimming pool was filled from the river. Very cold on a Monday!

My uncle, Mr Turner, taught at St Peter's Boys, now the Library, and my mother at St Mary's in Herd Street (infants and junior girls). I remember Miss Underwood, Miss Shelton and Miss Gregory, Mrs North and Miss Pearce. The Grammar School is now St Peter's and I was the last Head Girl in 1959/60.

Sheep were herded to fairs on the Common from the station up Herd Street, and sometimes ended up on our lawn, as did some troops at the end of the war.

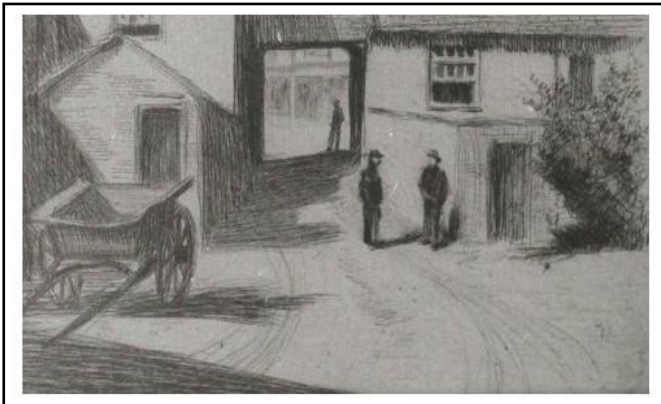
The Library was behind the Council offices on The Green and very small, but well used.

Dobson's garage in New Road is now the wine shop and Leader's garage in the High Street is now WH Smith's and the Prospect shop. There was another, Bell's, by St Peter's Church, now Cook's. There were four dairy rounds: us, Nash's and Church Farm (Harris's), and the Co-op that also had a shop in the High Street.

There was Stratton's, the large grocery store in the High Street, and Dible and Roy's, which had a massive fire, as did the Polly tea rooms. The firemen involved there received medals for bravery.

On the Common had been an American hospital and a prisoner of war camp. When this was disbanded, the Nissen huts were used by the Council to house those who were waiting for the houses in St Margaret's Mead to be finished, not squatters! Gale's honey farm was next to the entrance to this.

The town did not mix with the College. They were however the main place of employment. The schools were allowed to use the Chapel for a combined carol service. The College also hosted the swimming carnival in the moat.



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Marlborough Railway Stations: Susan Monson

Extracts from the CD "Living Memories" produced by the Marlborough Oral History Group and available to borrow from Marlborough Library.

There were two stations in Marlborough: there was what they called the High Level which was up top of Cherry Orchard, and the Low Level which would have been just off the Salisbury Road. The former was used mostly for goods, things that needed to be delivered in the town, and they had two vans that used to take the goods round the town and around the different villages. And at the low level they used to load the horses from the stables. I can remember them walking in the horses from the Downs, coming down Barn Street and they'd load them up at the station to take them to the races.

The "Marlborough Donkey" they used to call it, that went from Marlborough to Swindon; it used to bring people into work before buses. All the village people could get on at their little halts and come into Marlborough. You could get to London, change at Savernake (biggest junction there long, long since gone), transfer there and get to London Paddington from Marlborough in two hours; you can't get there much quicker now by car.

There was accommodation for the signalman and the station master which was just off the Salisbury Road on a high bank, quite a big semi-detached house. You could walk from the low level station up to the high level station, there was a pathway going up through.

Marlborough's own, this was a special train for Marlborough people and we used to go to the sea for the day and it was lovely.

Some of the bigger circuses came and the animals would come by railroad rather than road. I can well remember the parade they used to have from the station to the circus site. They would have a band to lead them to the big top ground where there would be the menagerie set up. I can remember Robert Brothers' elephants coming down Salisbury road years and years ago and going to a site in Elcot Lane and all these elephants nose to tail.

There was a signal box that was just off the main platform; I think they had two signalmen there, they used to do shifts. The booking hall for the high level station was turned into accommodation and he lived there for some years, and they called it Noah's Ark.

A Tragic Year for Mildenhall: Andrew Ross

1915 was the first full year of the **Great War**. When war was declared on 4 August 1914 it was said that it would be all over by Christmas. This however was far from the case: a line of trenches was established on the Western Front from the North Sea to Switzerland and deadlock ensued.

The challenge for the High Command was how to break this stalemate. Two policies were trialled: frontal assaults of increasing ferocity and magnitude on the Western Front, and attacks designed to knock out German allies, drawing attention away from the Western Front. The iconic battles of 1915 were the **Battle of Loos** in the autumn of 1915 and the campaign in **Gallipoli**. Mildenhall men were involved in both.

The first Mildenhall man to meet his death was **Lance-Corporal James Angell**. James was a regular soldier with 1st Wiltshires and he went to France at the very beginning of the war with the original British Expeditionary Force. At the time of his death the battalion was manning the trenches in area of Ypres. The war diary of 5 May 1915 describes: “ Short bursts of rifle fire by night. One man killed. “ This man was James Angell.

Another Mildenhall regular with the 1st Wilts met his death in 1915. This was **Private Charles Barnett**. Charles was in France within ten days of war being declared. He died on 1 September 1915 when the battalion was out of the line. This suggests he died as a result of illness or an accident as he is buried in a battlefield cemetery.

With men flooding into the Army at the beginning of the war, the 1st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment eagerly sought recruits to replace losses. Men were given six weeks basic training before being sent to the front. A draft sent to the front on 27 October 1914 included Mildenhall man **Private Frank Chun**. The Wiltshires were not in the main attack at the Battle of Loos but were twenty five miles to the north, attacking on the same day to hold the German defenders in their positions. As so often happened with subsidiary attacks losses could be severe. Frank was one of the casualties. His body was never recovered and he is commemorated on the Loos Memorial to the missing. His younger brother Walter was conscripted into the Army and he too was killed in 1917 at the Third Battle of Ypres.

Frank Chun is not the only Mildenhall man commemorated on the Loos Memorial. **Major Alfred Soames** , son of the Reverend Charles Soames, former Rector at Mildenhall, was a company commander with the 6th Battalion East Kent Regiment. This was a New Army battalion of volunteers, the ‘First Hundred Thousand’ raised at the beginning of the war by Lord Kitchener, and went to France on 31 May 1915. New Army battalions were extensively used at the Battle

of Loos with generally disastrous results. The battle commenced on 25 September and dragged on into October with no advantage to either side. The offensive recommenced on 13 October when the 6th East Kents went over the top. The battalion suffered four hundred casualties in the first few minutes. Alfred was one of the casualties and his body was never recovered.

The first locally raised New Army battalion was the 5th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment. Many men from Marlborough & Mildenhall joined this battalion, which sailed from Avonmouth to Gallipoli on 31 May 1915. At least three men from Mildenhall sailed, **Privates Tom Humphries, Edward Whitlock and George Wilder**. The battalion made two separate landings on the Gallipoli peninsula. On 16 July they landed on 'V' beach on Cape Helles and were then withdrawn at the end of the month and put ashore at Anzac Cove. Tom Humphries was killed on 26 July by a sniper whilst manning the trenches at Cape Helles. The landing at Anzac Cove was to support and reinforce the Anzac forces who were storming the heights inland from the beach. The New Zealand infantry had taken the summit of a position known as Chunuk Bair but were behind schedule and exhausted. They were to be relieved by the 5th Wiltshires on 10 August. The relief took place at night under fire from Turkish positions. The Turks immediately overran the position and the Wiltshires were driven off the heights. One hundred and forty three soldiers died on 10 August. Edward Whitlock was one of the soldiers killed on this day. George Wilder survived the massacre at Chunuk Bair only to be killed in action the following year in Mesopotamia.

Six men from Mildenhall were killed in action in 1915.

Amnesty Barn Dance

Saturday February 6th 7.30pm Marlborough Town Hall

Live music – BYO food & drink

Tickets: Jo - 01672 513950

Marlborough Concert Series

Sunday 7th February 3pm Memorial Hall, Marlborough College

South Bank Sinfonia

Brahms : Tragic Overture

Bruch: Concerto for Clarinet, Viola, and Orchestra

Sacha Rattle (clarinet) and Philip Dukes (viola)

Dvořák: Symphony No. 6

Retirement: Robert Macmillan

I remember, I remember
Marlborough as a lad.
At the College no less
Where I confess
Things really weren't that bad.

I remember Marlborough town -
This with great affection:
The C and B
And Polly's for tea
And a tuck shop full of confection.

I remember those early 50's,
I remember them only too well:
A cinema there...
A bevvie in The Bear...
And that infernal College bell.

I remember the bitter cold
Of the wind coming off the Plain.
From winter – no rest
(And no thermal vest!)
And don't even mention the rain.

I remember, I remember,
I remember still:
When term was done
How I used to run
To the station up the hill.

I remember Marlborough Downs
And lovely Savernake.
I remember the whole
Which, bless my soul,
Is why I have come back...
... to Marlborough.

The New Chairman: Hugh de Saram

My first encounter with Marlborough came in summer 1960 when my father brought me here to look at the College. I joined the school that year and headed for Cambridge to read Theology in December 1964. More importantly, I left with a clear hope and desire to return one day and raise a family in this lovely town.

Later, in a prophetic interlude during my PGCE year at Bristol in 1969, I was assigned to Marlborough Grammar School for my Easter term's teaching practice.

Ten years further on, in September 1979, my hope of return was fulfilled when, together with Wanda, my late wife from Augusta, Georgia and our children, Alan and Georgia, I arrived from the USA to take up a place in the Religious Education department at Marlborough College. I still live in the town, now married to Angela, retired from teaching, retired also from a second career as software engineer for the Church Mission Society in Oxford, and delighted to have been recruited by John Osborne to the Tower and Town team.

My aim as chairman will be to sustain the sterling work of my predecessors and to build on it by adding an online extension that will, I hope, offer a natural and accessible channel through which Marlborough's rising generations can express themselves and make their own contribution to the community. An excellent beginning has been made through John Osborne's initiation of dedicated editions produced by Marlborough's schools, and the time is now ripe to entice Marlborough's young writers and artists into feeling they can contribute year-round on a routine basis. On the one hand we want to hear their voices; on the other, we are glad to offer them a chance to be published, whether in print or online, in a magazine dedicated to good writing and exciting artwork.

Of course it is not just young people that we'd like to hear from. The opportunity to publish online, where space restrictions are vastly reduced and speed of response greatly increased, means that letters to the editor and other reactions from readers can be much more readily accommodated than in a once-a-month printed edition. I would love to see a lively online correspondence page: please send your thoughts to chairman@towerandtown.org.uk and we shall give every consideration to publishing within the bounds of the appropriate and constructive.

Marlborough is most fortunate in the quality of the culture it offers, whether it be through its many musical events, its book clubs, its Jazz Festival, its Literary Festival, or its many and varied publications and magazines. I am honoured and proud to have been entrusted with Tower And Town. Please help me to develop and enhance the already excellent contribution it makes to the life of our community.

Book Recommendations: Deborah Reynolds

Books and reading have always been an important part of my life and Lent gives me the opportunity to review what I might read, both to help me spiritually and also for pleasure.

As ever, there are lots of good books, so what to choose?

I think my morning reading will be the *Archbishop of Canterbury's* Lent book ***I Am With You***, which explores the Biblical portrayal of God's presence among us as light in darkness. Readings of Scripture are woven into a framework patterned on the seven monastic hours of prayer and the seven days of creation, which seems an intriguing and unusual approach.

But another book has also caught my eye – ***Under the Fig Tree*** – which is a book of 46 drawings, photos and paintings inspired by Lenten themes accompanied by a reading for each day. I'd like to dip into this book but I'll need to carve out some extra space to read this as well, which will perhaps mean 'giving something up' (maybe doing fewer puzzles!) in order to slow down and reflect and glimpse more of the authentic way of Jesus.

However, I also need to read at night for relaxation. During Lent I try to read novels which have a natural low-key spiritual dimension to them. *Kate Charles* has written a fantastic series of ***Book of Psalm Mysteries*** set in the Anglican Church where human failings and foibles are all too apparent. And, just out, is ***The Abbey*** by bestselling New York Times author *James Martin SJ*, his debut novel about the spiritual journeys of three very different people seeking direction in their lives.

All these books and more are available at **Mustard Seed** (by the river in Waitrose Car Park).

Marlborough Concert Orchestra

Saturday 5th March 7.30pm St Mary's Church,

Strauss : Blue Danube Waltz

Schubert: Symphony No. 4 (Tragic)

Fauré's Pelléas and Mélisande

Mozart: Overture to La Clemenza di Tito

Richard Strauss: Serenade for 13 wind instruments

Tickets on sale at Sound Knowledge, Hughenden Yard,
Marlborough and on the door - adults £9, students £2

Clergy Letter: Father Blacker

The Season Of Lent

The forty day Christian season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (10th February this year) and it is a time of fasting, prayer and almsgiving in preparation for Easter. The name "Lent" is from the Middle English *Lenten* and Anglo-Saxon *Lencten*, meaning spring. Its more primitive name was the "forty days", *Tessarakoste* in Greek.

The pre-Easter fast in the first three centuries, observed especially by those preparing to be Christians and their sponsors, lasted only two or three days. It later developed into three or four weeks. The number forty is first noted in the Canons of the Council of Nicaea (AD 325), and is likely to be in imitation of Jesus' fast in the desert before His public ministry (with Old Testament precedents in Moses and Elijah).

In some Eastern Churches this meant five fast days per week for seven weeks - Saturdays and Sundays were not included - making the total only thirty-five; in Jerusalem in the fourth century, this meant five days' fast for eight weeks. In most of the West at the time, this meant six days' fast per week of six weeks; in the seventh century the days from Ash Wednesday until the next Sunday were added to make the number forty.

The first day of Lent is called Ash Wednesday - a day on which ashes are blessed and used to mark the foreheads of the people as a sign of the penitential character of the Lenten season. These ashes come from the burning of palm branches used on Palm Sunday of the previous year.

May the holy season of Lent be a time for us to share in Jesus Christ's life, death and resurrection. Lent is a gift!

**To Bomb or Not to Bomb?
That is the Wrong Question!**

**Harriet Lamb, CBE,
Director of International Alert**

MBG Lent Lecture 2016, Marlborough Town Hall

Thursday 10 March, 8pm

Admission free with a retiring collection

What's on in February

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 (or some Wednesdays)

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

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

2-3pm: St. George's. Teddy Prayers & Picnic for under 5s and carers (2nd & 4th Weds)

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.

February calendar

1st (Monday)

2pm Kennet Valley Hall. Lockeridge. Embroiderers' Guild. Talk by Emily Jo Gibbs: 'Stitching – a love story – my creative journey'. 861658.

3rd (Wednesday)

7.30pm Wesley Hall, Oxford Street. WI Talk by Mrs Wafaa Powell: 'Lebanese Food – Demo & Tasting'.

6th (Saturday)

7.30pm Town Hall. Barn Dance for Amnesty International. Live Music. Bring your own food and drink. 513950.

7th (Sunday)

3pm MC Memorial Hall. Subscription Concert: Southbank Sinfonia. £20 (£10 students). 01672 892566.

- 8th (Monday)**
7.30pm Bouverie Hall, Pewsey. Pewsey Vale DFAS. Lecture by Anthea Streeter: 'Charles Rennie Mackintosh'. 0775 683163.
- 10th (Wednesday)**
12.30pm 40 St Martins. Widows' Friendship Group Lunch. 514030.
7.45pm Wesley Hall, Oxford Street. Gardening Association. AGM followed by a Question and Answer session
- 11th (Thursday)**
7.30pm Town Hall. Film: 'Magic in the Moonlight' (12A). £5 in advance, £6 on door.
- 12th (Friday)**
12 noon. Marlborough College: Half Term starts.
St John's Academy: End of Term 3.
- 15th (Monday)**
11am Ellendune Community Centre, Wroughton. Kennet DFAS. Lecture by Dr Steve Kershaw: 'The Elgin Marbles'. 01793 840790.
7.30pm Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. Kennet Valley National Trust Association. Talk by Tanya Bloomfield: 'A Canal Trip: a journey down the Regent Canal'.
- 18th (Thursday)**
7.30pm St Peter's Church. History Society. Talk by Alan Deboo: 'The Impact on Society of the Advent of the Railways'. Visitors £4 (students half price).
- 21st (Sunday)**
7.30pm St Peter's Church. Concert: Karim Said (Piano) & Chris Graves (Cello). £10 (£8 members of St Peter's Trust and MBG).
9pm Marlborough College: Half Term ends.
- 22nd (Monday)**
St John's Academy: Term 4 starts.
- 25th (Thursday)**
7pm Town Hall. Live from NT: 'As You Like It'. £15 in advance, £17.50 on door.
-



FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms	22 Nov	Freddie Burke-Murphy at St Mary's
	17 Jan	Phoenix Whiting at St George's
Weddings	12 Dec	Louise Plank and Daniel Crabb at St Mary's
	31 Dec	Rachel Fry and Nigel Hillier at St George's

Departed

4 November	John Bailey (88) of 17 The Priory, Marlborough <i>St Mary's and Kingsdown Crematorium</i>
15 November	Deborah Faith Cox (56) of 48 George Lane, Marlborough <i>St Mary's and Semington Crematorium</i>
16 November	June Audrey Fryer (86) of Highfield Nursing Home, Marlborough <i>St Mary's and Semington Crematorium</i>
20 November	Rosina Joan Offer (85) of Miranda House Nursing Home, Royal Wootton Bassett <i>Kingsdown Crematorium</i>
21 November	Lilian Doris Shire (84) of Devonshire Lodge, Marlborough <i>St Mary's and Marlborough Cemetery</i>
22 November	Anne Margrethe Durant-Pritchard (59) of 12 The Green, Marlborough <i>Kingsdown Crematorium and St George's</i>
22 November	Helen Anita Joyce Caswell (78) of 11 St John's Close, Marlborough <i>Semington Crematorium and St John the Baptist</i>
28 November	Leonard Alexander Charles Tomlin (93) of 60 Vespasian Road, Marlborough <i>Kingsdown Crematorium</i>
30 November	Richard Roy 'Dick' Miles (80) of 18 Stonebridge Close, Marlborough <i>St Mary's and Kingsdown Crematorium</i>
30 December	Keith William Lovett (78) of St George's, Lower Churchfields, Marlborough <i>Kingsdown Crematorium</i>

Marlborough Medical Practice:
Patient Participation Group (PPG) Update

Many of us will have a cold, sore throat or other minor illness this winter and some will have flu. The most common illnesses will usually get

better without seeing a doctor, saving you from a visit to the surgery.

Here are some top tips to help you keep well and self-care:

Colds, flu and sore throats do not need antibiotics and can be treated at home:

- Make sure you get lots of rest, drink plenty of water and take pain relievers, such as paracetamol or ibuprofen, if you need them.

Order any repeat prescriptions in good time:

- If you take regular medication, order your repeat prescriptions from the surgery in good time. We need 2 working days to prepare your medication, so please take this into account when you order it.

Book your flu jab:

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- If you're eligible for a flu jab, we hope that you have had it. It is available free from your GP if you are over 65, pregnant or have a long-term condition such as heart failure, diabetes or respiratory disease. Children aged two and three can have the vaccine as a nasal spray.

- If you are a patient and would like advice whether you qualify for the vaccine, please call the surgery after 11 am on weekdays.

Get advice from your pharmacist:

- Your pharmacy can recognise common health complaints. They can give advice or, where appropriate, medicines to help you manage the symptoms. If your problem is more serious or you need medical advice, your pharmacist will advise you to contact your GP.
- You can ask your pharmacist what over the counter remedies to keep at home to help get you and your family through the winter months.

If you have access to the internet, check online for information and advice:

- There is lots of information on the NHS website about how to keep well, check your symptoms or use self-care in the face of common illnesses such as colds, sore throats and flu: www.nhs.uk

If your symptoms persist, or you are at all unsure, always seek advice from your pharmacist, nurse or GP.

Family News compiled by Audrey Peck

Congratulations to **Betty and Bert Smith** on their Diamond Wedding. They were married in Potterne Church in 1955 and lived in Devizes, coming to Marlborough 32 years ago to work at the College and have lived in York Place for six years. They celebrated with their sons, **David and Michael**, and their grandchildren at a party in December.

John Mack has made and taught guitar here for 42 years. Musicians have played his guitars in USA, Canada, Australia and Norway as well as the UK. John was delighted when Calne Music Festival booked the Corlibri Trio to play in honour of his work. The trio included John Mills, former Guitar Professor at the Royal Academy of Music, his wife, Cobie, and Rod Faulkner playing a varied programme on John's instruments. The evening ended with cutting a huge guitar shaped cake and wine.

We are all sad for **Steve Cox** whose wife, **Deborah**, died suddenly very soon after they had returned from a holiday in New York. She enjoyed her home and her work as a nurse and was adored by Steve, their two sons, **Ben and Luke**, and their daughter, Joanna, and their seven young grandchildren. She enjoyed gardening and worked with St Mary's playgroup and the Church Sunday school.

John Bailey had always lived in Burbage and Marlborough except during his years in the 6th Royal Horse Artillery. He met **Helen**, who died four years ago, in Germany and they married in 1951. He worked as a farm welder/mechanic. He enjoyed making wooden clocks and mobiles and displayed them for sale in the window of his home in St Martins. He loved visiting his granddaughter in Greece. His daughter, **Annie**, sons **Robert, Leslie, Peter and Michael**, his 12 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren are all mourning a real family man.

Lilian Shire died recently. She and her late husband, **George**, had lived in Elcot Lane since their marriage in 1952. She lived in London during the blitz then trained as a seamstress. She enjoyed gardening, cooking for her family and shopping trips with friends. She had been a volunteer at the Jubilee Rooms and treasurer of the Sunshine Club. Our sympathy goes to her children, **Mark and Georgina**, and her four grandchildren.

Dick Miles was well known for his skilled wood carving. He died suddenly at his home in Stonebridge Close where he had lived since 1964 when it was new. He and his late wife, **Margaret**, had three sons. Since he retired he has been busy making small wood carvings to display at shows and helping at St Mary's Infants School. Condolences to **Malcolm, Ian, Nick** and their families and to Stonebridge Close neighbours.

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Brilliant Young Musicians in

**St Peter's Church Marlborough
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**Chris Graves – Cello
Alison Rhind - Piano**

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Sonata in D Major BEETHOVEN

Tickets: £10 (£8 for members of MBG or St Peter's Trust) from the
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Marlborough Churches Together

Please check pages 25, 26 and 27 for special services and events.

Regular Sunday Service times

Christchurch, New Road (Methodist)

- 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 Informal Prayer: 8.00 am Wednesday
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 Informal Prayer: 8.00 am Wednesday
Teddy Prayers & Picnic: 2-3pm Wednesday (2nd & 4th)
Tea Time followed by Evening Prayer: 4.30pm Weds.

George Johnson talks to the Editor

George grew up in Marlborough, the youngest of three children whose father was a painter and decorator. In the 2nd World War he was conscripted as a 'Bevin Boy' and did his war service in the mines of South Wales. There, 'in the canteen', he met Nan, a miner's daughter. They married in 1948 after George was demobbed, a marriage that lasted 60 years. Back in Marlborough he worked as a painter for Eade's and after living 'on the corner' where Dible and Roy are now, George and Nan had their own house built and gave it its unpronounceable Welsh name.

From 1963, he went to work at the College and became general foreman in the Estate department; after he retired, he continued as supervisor in the dining hall, a job which he still does, valued for his straight and easy manner with the pupils, to whom he is 'George'.

The Marlborough that George describes has changed greatly – a town now without the building firms (Ledleys, Burts, Eustace and Hilliers), without many of the pubs (like 'The Bell and Shoulder of Mutton' in Kingsbury Street) and without the plethora of small shops. He mentions Hilliers, the greengrocers, in Kingsbury Street; Hart's, the bakers, down The Parade; the 'The Green Parrot' sweet shop by St Peter's Church; and Miss Pearce's shop off The Green, where they 'sold general goods' and where 'you could buy a gas mantle'. There was 'Whistling Jimmy's' shop in St Martins, Notton's café and Russell's tailors in the High Street....



George served for over thirty years in the local 'retained' fire brigade, staffed by volunteers, many of them in the 'building trade'. Up to 1926, the fire engine was horse-drawn and during the 2nd World War the engine was 'a Fordson flat-bed lorry with a tank of water on the back – a Heath Robinson effort'. He and his colleagues were called out for the major fires that scarred Marlborough in our time: Dible and Roy's, where the One Stop and Post Office are today; the Polly, for which (George is reticent here) he, Frank Odey and Bob Cox were

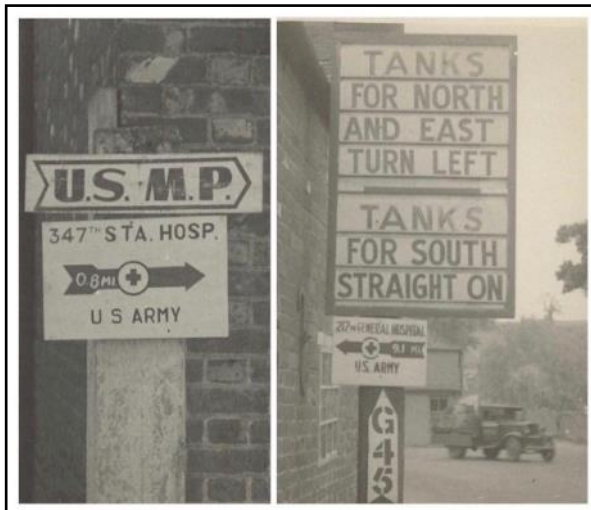
awarded the Queen's Commendation for Bravery for rescuing the children upstairs; and the tannery, where 'the water froze' as they pumped it from the river. After George retired, he was awarded the medal for long service and the BEM.

The Town Mill Swimming Pool: Carrie

In the late 1940's my Mum was at the Grammar School (now St. Peter's School) and used to have swimming lessons in the open-air pool on the Town Mill site. As she walked over the bridge with the water wheel on the left the derelict old mill building was still there. The pool was like a huge concrete paddling pool on a metal framework with metal steps going up from the south side. The P.E. teacher stood at the poolside instructing and using a belt float on a rope to give any nervous child more confidence. The water was unheated and the class went shivering back to school to a French lesson.

I swam there with my sisters at Marlborough Swimming Club in the late 60's. It was started by Town Councillor and former Mayor, Bill Winchcombe, and others. After tea we used to queue up with our parents to get in. Mum remembers a little girl looking at the temperature notice in centigrade and fahrenheit and telling her father that she was going in the fahrenheit end because it was warmer. Some who taught us then, like Alan Crook, are still mainstays of the club 50 years on.

We had warm orange squash and crisps or wafer biscuits to warm us up as soon as we were dressed. As we progressed and competed with other clubs with heated pools we would take a cold shower before a race to give us an advantage over the 'softies'. In the hot summers of the 70's we went to the pool in the morning and stayed for hours. There was no time limit. A colourful play area for toddlers had been put on the lawn with a paddling pool and swings. The older kids sunbathed there.



Marlborough Signage, WWII

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NEWS from the Churches

The Lent season starts with Ash Wednesday on **10th February** and leads us towards Easter Day on **27th March**.

There are services at:-

St Mary's, Marlborough at 10.30am and St George's, Preshute at 7.30pm, offering the imposition of ash.

Joint section services at Pewsey Methodist Church at 10am and Ramsbury Methodist church at 7pm.

Mass at St Thomas More at 10am and at 7.30pm during which Ashes will be blessed and given.

The MCT Lent Talks start on **Wednesday 24th February**, at 7.30pm at Christchurch and continue over the following three weeks. The theme is "Finding God in .."

...Music: David Miller, 24th February

...the Everyday: Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum, 2nd March

...the Sacraments: Christopher Whitehead, 9th March

...Silence: Harvey Gillman, 16th March



Marlborough Churches Together: Open Council Meeting

Please contact Alison Selby if you would like to attend or raise an issue at the February meeting, the date to be arranged.
(alison@crossmead.net)



Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group (MAPAG)

MAPAG meets at the Friends Meeting House, The Parade, Marlborough at 7.30pm on Monday 1st February. All welcome to attend the meeting.

Women's Fellowship

2nd February

9th February

16th February

23rd February

1st March

All meetings at 2.45pm Christchurch .

Eileen Gilbert

Rev Heather Cooper

Maggie Gibbs

Sandra Wylie

Sara Thompson



The Epiphany service last month raised £21.50 for Christian Aid.

Thank you to all who supported the service.

NEWS from the Churches, continued

Christian Aid Talk, 9th February, 6.30pm St Mary's

Join us this February as we prepare for Christian Aid Week 2016. In 'Life on the Edge', Rezwana Islam from Christian Aid Bangladesh will be sharing her first-hand experiences of working with the people featured in this year's Christian Aid Week resources.



She will be speaking in St Mary's Church on Tuesday 9th February. Tea and coffee will be served from 6.30pm, and at 7pm a presentation will be given by Rezwana. All are welcome to this free event. Come and hear stories of how your support is helping to transform lives.

Rezwana joined Christian Aid in 2013 after seven years of working for organisations within Bangladesh focused on social issues, health research, and the promotion of environmental justice. She joined Christian Aid to help continue to improve the lives of the poor and marginalized in Bangladesh. She currently works as a project officer, responsible for research and communication. She also supports the Christian Aid Country Office, and leads the organisation of various events.

Sunday Lunch Club

Sunday Lunch Club meets on 14th February starting at noon at Christchurch. All welcome. Please reserve a place through the Christchurch office (513701) by Friday 12th February.

Filling Station

Filling Station will meet on 24th February with speaker Andrew Price, a highly qualified leadership consultant and writer and an experienced speaker. Filling Station meets from 7.30-9.30 pm at St Peter's Junior School, Marlborough, SN8 1LQ.



Devotion Tuesday night youth club Hangout@TheMead

More details about these youth clubs can be found at <http://devotion-marlborough.co.uk>. Please continue to pray for the work of Devotion with young people.



Diary Dates

Women's World Day of Prayer will be celebrated on **4th March**. This year in Marlborough we will have a time for silence and open prayer from 10.30am to 11am in Christchurch; to pray for the people in Cuba and women around the world. This will be a time to show



our support to those participating and marking the day itself.

There will also be a Service in Pewsey at 2pm in Holy Family Catholic Church, Broadfields Estate to which all are welcome.

All welcome to attend our usual Church Services on **6th March** to celebrate **Mothering Sunday** with gifts of flowers.

St Non's Retreat, 20th to 23rd September.

The 14th retreat at this beautiful site on the Pembrokeshire coast will be led this year by the Revd Dr Janneke Blokland. This is an ecumenical retreat, and all are welcome. Enquire or book now with Barney (01672.512205, barney.rsdl@gmail.com, after 1st March).

Finding God in ...

**A series of Lent Talks organised by
Marlborough Churches Together**



**24th February: Finding God in ... Music
David Miller**

Minister in the Chippenham section of the North-Wiltshire Methodist circuit.

**2nd March: Finding God in ... The Everyday
Alan Jeans**

Archdeacon of Sarum and chairman of the Mission Council of Salisbury Diocese.



**9th March: Finding God in ... The Sacraments
Christopher Whitehead**

Director of the Department of Adult Education and Evangelisation for the Clifton Diocese.

**16th March: Finding God in ... Silence!
Harvey Gillman**

Outreach Secretary of Quaker British Yearly Meeting and author of several books on Quaker Spirituality.



**Christchurch, Marlborough
Wednesdays - 7.30pm - All Welcome**

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<i>News from the Churches</i>	Alison Selby church.news@towerandtown.org.uk Crossmead, Kingsbury St, SN8 1HU	511128
<i>Family News</i>	Audrey Peck family.news@towerandtown.org.uk 7 Castle Court, Marlborough SN8 1XG	289065

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Contributions and comments from readers are welcome. Please send articles and letters to the Monthly Editor or the Editorial Coordinator, other notices or announcements to the compiler. All items for the March issue by 9 February please.

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