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# TOWER AND TOWN

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**Care for the Planet**



**St John's Edition**

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November 2019 50P

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# TOWER<sup>AND</sup>TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

NUMBER 698 NOVEMBER 2019



## St John's School

For this month's issue, I have had the pleasure of overseeing another collaboration between St John's School, Marlborough and Tower and Town magazine.

As Extinction Rebellion and similar groups gather pace, our personal impact on the planet is at the frequent heart of conversation. Amidst mind-numbing statistics and an ever-increasing rhetoric of 'impending doom', it is easy to feel overwhelmed and pessimistic about it all. But as a teacher at St John's, the attitude of our students - who care deeply about their planet - has been a constant glimmer of hope for me.

Over recent months, our school has been working hard to lessen the impact we are having on the environment; encouraged by the growth of activism and of political 'switching on' amongst our student cohort. The conversations I have with students in class and around the school continue to reveal a well-informed, motivated generation, proactively thinking about the challenges of climate change, plastic pollution and so on.

The focus of this month's issue is our planet and I am very grateful to Tower and Town for empowering our students with a platform to stand on and be heard. Above all, I would like to thank our student contributors whose excellent work is a testament to the compassionate attitude our students have to the world around them; an attitude which inspires me on a daily basis.

**Lauren Sankey, English Teacher at St John's School, Marlborough**

Cover: Anna Oliver

Dear Mr President  
I'd love to have a chat  
About icecaps, trees and climate change,  
And silly things like that.

Let's speak of fracking, coal and gas  
and problems circumvented,  
hoaxes, fake news, seeds of doubt,  
your manifesto supplemented.

It seems the only climate talks  
with which you intermix,  
are ones concerning immigrants,  
big walls and politics.

And so I have a question  
for the man that they call president:  
why ignore earth's climate change  
when the facts are oh so evident?

So hate our voices, views and loves,  
detest us for resistance.  
You fight for blissful ignorance  
While we battle for future existence.

Come along to  
**our annual Christmas Fair at Ogbourne Primary School**  
in Ogbourne St George! We have a Santa's Grotto, lots of games for all the  
family, Hot Dogs, Homemade Mince Pies, Mulled Wine, Bottle Tombola  
plus many many more! Entry is £1 per adult, children are free.  
Doors open at 1pm until 4pm. Come & get festive with us!



# Open Letter to the UK Government

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**Dear Mr Johnson,**

Picture a long sandy beach filled with families and friends enjoying themselves. Picture the ocean, mesmerising and vast, the fish circling around the vibrant colours of the coral.

That was the past.

Now imagine that same beach, covered in the remains of plastic bottles, bags and packaging – completely unused by the public. Picture the ocean again; those same fish living under plastic bottles, the same corals now bleached and dying. Is this dismal, disappointing sight really what we want?

We are writing this letter to you as it has come to our attention that the government as a whole is not doing enough to sort out the ominous problem of plastic. Vast and limitless, our ocean contains many magnificent species that are being abused by human action. The repetitive use of plastic is destroying the world as we speak and must be put to an end. Statistics state that 8 million tonnes of plastic is dumped into the ocean every year; we fear that this problem is becoming astronomically worse. The impending danger of global warming looms over the land and future generations; a tyrannical issue rumoured to be the end of humanity. Don't you want to protect our nation and our Earth? Because you can, as a government, together.

With so many plastic alternatives available, the world really must wake up and acknowledge the trauma we are causing. Even by reusing plastic bags, buying a reusable water bottle or using paper straws you are helping us get back on track. We must change our habits or it will be too late.

Someone once said "it's just one bottle, it hardly makes a difference". One person said that and billions of others followed. This stubborn belligerence intoxicates us with anger and steals the oxygen from our air. Give it back. Give us back our beach. Give us back our ocean.

Yours hopefully

Bonnie Cartwright, Georgina Wakefield and Yasmin Lester (Year 9)

# A Letter from the Pacific

Thomasina Keyes

---

**Dear anyone who wishes to read,**

I have been trapped with this thing for many weeks. This is utter torture; the plastic conceals me. With each passing day my body shrinks and the plastic grows. The pinked colours of the sunrise blind me as I write to you; every day the sunrise gazes sorrowfully at me and its bright happiness now rarely gives me hope.

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch: the enemy, invading my body.

This is my last call for help.

Imagine a swamp, thick and sticky like a mixing bowl full of batter; so thick that if you placed your finger in deeply, it would be stuck like cement. Now imagine an ocean, the same but thick with plastic and dead sea birds and fish. Tacky plastic clings to you with every step you take. Every day it crawls closer to you.

Plastics are ruling the sea. Every minute a plastic bag throttles an animal to death or eats away at it from the inside. Can you imagine the pain of a crisps packet cutting through the soft layers of your stomach? I feel that pain every day. I worry every minute as another piece of plastic creeps in to the ever-growing patch. I worry every time micro-plastics flow through my rhythmic waves, soon to be swallowed by an unfortunate creature; the next victim of the jaws of plastic.

As you sit at your dining room table and enjoy the silent hum of family happiness, your creation grows and grows like a reckless child, each day larger than the day before. And all I can wonder is what are you doing to help?

I want it to stop. Please make it stop! I beg you.

From the Pacific Ocean

The Lit Fest Committee wish to give special thanks to everyone who was involved in the early production and delivery of last month's Lit Fest edition of Tower and Town. We really appreciate the extra work and effort involved.

Many thanks - Virginia Reekie

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Apartments and houses are now available to buy in four well designed, purpose-built developments for the over-55's, Town Mill in Marlborough and three in or around London.



Each property is equipped with 24-hour emergency systems and every development benefits from beautiful landscaped gardens, communal facilities such as lounge, guest suites, resident house/estate managers and on-site parking.

Availability and more information about each development - Osprey Court (NW3 7AA) near West Hampstead, Heathside (NW11 7SB) near Golders Green, Challoner Court (BR2 0AB) in Bromley and Town Mill (SN8 1NS) in Marlborough - can be viewed on the website [www.ospreymc.co.uk](http://www.ospreymc.co.uk)



For further enquiries, please contact Lorraine Wash on (020) 8569 8364 or email [lorraine.wash@ospreymc.co.uk](mailto:lorraine.wash@ospreymc.co.uk)



# Earth in Need

Elina Pfeiler

---

Flashing neon lights  
shine all around.  
Dirty litter flutters  
onto polluted ground.  
Fish gasp for breath  
in their poisoned home;  
all our greed and selfishness  
into the sea is thrown.  
Landfills burn whilst factories  
smoke,  
acidic rain falls;  
our mess is marked everywhere  
while the helpless Earth calls.  
It longs to be far away,  
left alone by us,  
no more rubbish, dirt or smoke,  
no stress or chaos.

We humans have destroyed our Earth -  
we've drowned it in our greed.  
We've killed innocent animals  
and left the Earth to bleed.  
It cried out loud so many times,  
begging us to stop,  
but we blocked out its desperate shout  
and dumped more dirt on top.  
But we can fix it -  
now's our chance!  
Let the Earth be freed.  
Heal its pains, cuts and wounds;  
The Earth is in need.

# Coral Reef Bleaching

Cody Heaton

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**Deep in the warm oceans of the world, a myriad of colours astounded the eye. A box of jewels laid out on the ocean floor, teeming with life. Amethyst anemones arched into the sea; sapphire sponges searched for food; and sea worms wriggled in the waves.**

This is what it should be. What it used to be.

Now... death. White skeletons scare. Bleached bones bond together. All colour leaches away as the warm waters are the coral's funeral. An aquamarine shroud hides devastation beneath. Fossil-like fingers reach up, begging for help. There is none. Absent algae leave calcium carbonate corpses in the coffin of the deep.

# Climate Change and What We Can Do to Stop It

Noah Piercy

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**Climate change is an irrefutable reality; it's happening now, we're causing it and we are going to be the ones affected by it. Since the 19th century scientists have known about the devastating effects of greenhouse gases and for decades climate activists have warned us about the effects our lifestyles are having on the planet: but mostly in vain. Apathy and hypocrisy have stood in the way of action when urgent action is just what we need.**

Last year we managed to dump 37 gigatons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, a 2.7% increase on the year before, with CO<sub>2</sub> levels reaching an unparalleled 45% over pre-industrial levels. This is catastrophic; with the Paris agreement and the UN setting further climate change goals one would have hoped for the exact opposite. But no. The human race has yet again surpassed all expectations and managed to stubbornly resist the truth that has been exposed to us for nearly a century. But that's not all, it gets worse. Nine of the 10 countries most vulnerable to climate change are in sub-Saharan Africa. That's right; the world's poorest countries and the nations least responsible for climate change are going to be the ones who will inevitably suffer due to our reckless, indifferent western lifestyles. This is not right and it's not fair. We need to act; we need to change.

Fortunately, it's possible. We can change, but it will take an unprecedented effort and a huge shift in the way we go about our lives. It will take generations of committed hard work to slowly reduce the impact we are having on the earth and hopefully one day reverse the damage we have already done. But it will soon be too late, there will come a day when we have damaged the earth so much and pumped out so much CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere the damage will become irreversible: runaway climate change. If this were to happen, we will have raised the amount of greenhouse gases so much that the positive feedback loops spurring on climate change will become unstoppable. An example: global warming leads to melting permafrost in the northern hemisphere thus letting more methane (a greenhouse gas 30 times more potent than CO<sub>2</sub>) enter the atmosphere. The extra methane will consequently exacerbate global warming leading to even more permafrost melting and more methane being released. Hopefully you can realise how urgent it is that we start curbing our emissions, not in a few years' time, but now.

So how do we start to tackle climate change? What do we need to do as individuals to help stop the climate emergency? It will take a momentous effort



from everyone to successfully reduce our emissions enough to halt climate change. But it can be done.

Firstly, switch to a plant-based diet. Switching to a plant-based diet can cut the carbon footprint of your food by more than 90%. If that seems too much, at least try and avoid beef, tropical fruits imported by air and cheese.

Secondly, try to decrease your car journeys. Car sharing, using trains and ultimately walking and using a bike can dramatically reduce the greenhouse gases released. But at all costs avoid planes, a return economy flight from London to Majorca – about two hours of flight time – emits the equivalent of 490 kilograms of carbon dioxide, about as much as you would save in a year of going vegetarian or driving 2500 kilometers less.

Thirdly, try being more energy efficient at home. Using more efficient home appliances, having a lower-flow shower head and not leaving home appliances on standby can have a small, but significant effect on the emissions released.

Halting climate change will be difficult, but it can be done and it must be done if we want to preserve the world we live in today. If we want to protect the fragile but beautiful world we live in, then we all have to radically change the way we lead our lives, not in a few years' time, but now. Will you help to combat the ever-increasing problem of climate change? Will you be remembered as a person who gave their all to stop global warming, or will you be known as a stubborn hypocrite who helped fuel the demise of our planet?

The choice is yours.

### **MCO Concert**

Marlborough Concert Orchestra's Winter Concert will take place on Saturday 7th December at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church, Marlborough

Programme:

Schumann - Cello Concerto in A minor (soloist Caterina Isaia from the Yehudi Menuhin School)

Khachaturian - Adagio from Spartacus Suite no. 2

Sibelius - Karelia Suite

Tickets on sale at Sound Knowledge, Hughenden Yard, Marlborough and on the door - adults £10, students £2



On wet mornings,  
cold and damp,  
to the garden,  
out I'd tramp,  
and watch a while  
with wonderous eyes,  
the dew drenched fields,  
and auburn skies.  
And I'd seek out,  
in that great space,  
a silver web,  
of spider's lace;  
dew encrusted,  
fine of thread,  
in the rafters  
of the shed.  
And I'd reach out,  
with finger and thumb,  
and snatch that web,  
from where it hung.  
For it really is  
the true nature of man  
to take what we want  
and destroy what we can.



## Marlborough Christmas

Festive Gifts,  
Food & Drink,  
Choirs, Santa



**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December**  
10-3pm  
Marlborough College, SN8 1PA



# Three Short Descriptions of the Natural World

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The tree begged for mercy as the seasons passed. One by one they moved closer to winter. The bronze Autumn painted a picture, bringing joy to the once gloomy forest. The tree lived on its roots that swayed and wriggled across the floor. As the day passed, the sun's rays danced around the floor and got ready for another day.

By Alfie Street (Year 7)

The gentle waves stroked the island, the sun glaring. There was only the slow movement of trees swaying in the light breeze. The soft sand blew about the edge of the island. Clouds watched from above; the diverse shapes all with their own eyes. Gradually, the ocean waves slowed to a stop. There was no movement, everything lay still. Every palm tree watched this way and that, each one bored and waiting. Coconuts started to fall to the ground, one by one.

by Thomas Norris (Year 7)

The golden sand sat peacefully in the sun, listening to the gentle whistling of the waves as they tumbled against the shore. Gently, the inconspicuous clouds floated gracefully across the sky. Fish swam fast while their gills shimmered in the sparkling ocean. This was paradise. Until...

Humans came along and created havoc on the beach. One by one, the grass was pulled out of the ground, birds were shooed away from nesting areas, people were taking over. The sand learned how to react to this destruction. Soon, sand was boiling and so it burned the feet of humans. The clouds retreated from this paradise so that the sun had room to burn human skin. It was time for revenge!

by Lara Nasse (Year 7)

I'd hate to think a child of mine,  
would look across a plastic sea,  
watch the bottles sailing past,  
and wonder how it used to be.

Would he gaze upon this hopeless place,  
and cry out in frustration,  
would he sit and marvel at the waste,  
made by my own generation.

Would he play fetch in smog-filled streets,  
and run on kerosene,  
broken glass about his feet,  
in his world of polythene.

I'd hate to think a child of mine,  
would look across the plastic waves,  
watch the steady latex tide,  
and wonder what we could have saved.

**The Marlborough Players present...**

## **'The Canterbury Tales'**

**by Geoffrey Chaucer**

**adapted by Phil Woods & Michael Bogdanov**

**Marlborough Town Hall, Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November**

**7.30pm**

Set in the present time this is a modern adaptation of some of Chaucer's most famous tales. With classics such as 'The Wife of Bath', 'The Knight's Tale' and 'The Miller's Tale', this updated version takes the form of an annual 'Geoffrey Chaucer Canterbury Tale Telling Competition', with each tale told as a standalone, linked by a Master of Ceremonies.

Tickets £10 from the White Horse Bookshop

Online: [www.wegottickets.com/MarlboroughPlayers](http://www.wegottickets.com/MarlboroughPlayers)

**Christine May Spray (née Walsham) died peacefully at home in Oxford on September 26<sup>th</sup> 2019.**

Christine Spray spent the greater part of her life living in Marlborough with husband Bill, raising a family and leaving finally only in 2006, moving to Oxford, where she died last month, aged 95. Born in Grimsby in May 1924, Christine grew up surrounded by Methodism, Music and, one suspects, much fun!

Leaving Grimsby's Wintringham Grammar school, Christine attended Bedford College, London but on the outbreak of war was evacuated to Cambridge to complete her studies. It was here at Wesley Methodist chapel that she met Bill and where they got married in August 1948. Between 1944 and 1948 she worked in the MRC's Department of experimental medicine in Cambridge, becoming a small part of the world-famous team of nutrition scientists led by Professors McCance and Widdowson. Some of the research papers Christine co-authored on digestibility of wheat, on white and brown bread, and on the chemical composition of the human body are still standard texts.

Christine and Bill moved to Marlborough in 1948 when Bill got a job teaching history at Marlborough College and from then on life in and around Marlborough was the focus of her activities. It was temporarily exchanged for nearly five years spent in Nigeria supporting Bill in his role as Head of a Methodist Teacher Training College, and home schooling two young sons, Paul and Christopher. She returned initially to Mildenhall, then Marlborough in 1958 with the birth of daughter Rachel.

Throughout the next dozen years, Christine continued her love of music, often playing her violin or viola in quartets at home, or with the North Wilts Orchestra. As a housemaster's wife, she was also an expert and kindly host to visitors, and of course a busy mother looking after three rapidly growing children.

In 1970, they moved to Leighton Park in Reading when Bill took over as head of this Quaker school.

In 1980, Christine and Bill moved back to Manton Hollow and again threw themselves in to local parish and community activities. Only in 2006 did they finally leave Marlborough, moving to Oxford to be close to eldest son Paul. They celebrated their diamond wedding in 2008, with Bill predeceasing her in 2012.

# What's On

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## Regular events

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### Every Monday

6pm Recreation Ground, Salisbury Road. Bowls Club.  
7.30pm Christchurch. Marlborough Choral Society.  
7.45-9pm Bell-ringing practice at St George's,  
Preshute.

### Every Tuesday

2-3.30pm Savernake Hospital. Carers' Support Café.  
*(2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday)*  
2.45pm The Parlour, Christchurch. Women's  
Fellowship. *(2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays)*  
7.30-9pm Bell-ringing practice at St Mary's,  
Marlborough.

### Every Wednesday

10am Jubilee Centre. Drop-in, Tea/Coffee. 12.30  
Lunch.  
10.15-11.45am St Peter's Church. Carers' Support  
Cafe. *(Last Wednesday of month)*.  
12.30pm St George's, Preshute. Teddy Prayers &  
Picnic. A special service for U5s & carers followed by  
a picnic lunch. *(First Wednesday)*  
1.30-3.30pm Town Hall. Sunshine Club for the over  
55s.  
7.30-9pm Bell-ringing practice at St John's.  
Mildenhall.  
7.30-9.30pm St Mary's Church Hall. Marlborough  
Community Choir.

### Every Thursday

10-30-12noon Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge.  
Singing for the Brain. Alzheimer's Support. 01225  
776481. *(Every Thursday during term-time)*.  
7-8.30pm Wesley Hall, Oxford St. Hangout &  
Devotion. Youth Club.

### Every Friday

10-12 noon Christchurch

### Every Friday and Saturday (10am-4pm)

10am-4pm 132 High Street  
Museum. £3 (u 16s free).

### By Appointment

Library. Marlborough & D  
Drop-in advice. Help line:

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## November calendar

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### 1<sup>st</sup> (Friday)

7.30pm St Peter's Church.  
Sarsen Songmen: Big Band  
Songs in aid of Macmillan  
refreshments - tickets £5 f  
David Baker (0750063587)  
night.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> (Saturday)

7.30pm Kennet Valley Hall  
Dance. Live Music. BYO  
Jo Ripley 07419 370998.

### 4<sup>th</sup> (Monday)

St John's Academy: Start o  
2.00pm Kennet Valley Hall  
Embroiderers' Talk by Liz  
Landscapes and Literature

### 6<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)

7.30pm Wesley Hall, Oxford  
Evans, Children's Author.  
welcome.

### 7<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)

2pm Mildenhall Village Ha  
demonstrator: Sally Taylor  
Visitors £6. 861279.  
7.30pm Coronation Hall, A



Crush Hall. Food bank.

**1st April-22nd December**

t SN8 1HN. Marlborough

District Dyslexia Association.

07729 452143.

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ll Lockeridge. Amnesty Barn  
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of Term 2.

ll. Marlborough

Brooke Ward: 'Lichens,

rd Street. WI. Speaker: Debi

New members and guests

ll. Floral Club. Guest

: 'Countdown to Christmas'.

Alton Barnes SN8 4LB. Talk

by Michael Balston: 'The Garden beyond the Plant'.  
£8.50 (children half price). 852265.

**8th (Friday)**

8pm Town Hall. Marlborough Folk Roots:  
'Gigspanner'. £18 from Sound Knowledge.

**10th (Sunday)**

7.30pm Marlborough College Memorial Hall. Concert:  
Sheku Kanneh-Mason (cello) & Isata Kanneh-Mason  
(piano). £20 (£10 students) 892566.

**13th (Wednesday)**

7.45pm Wesley Hall, Oxford Street. Gardening  
Association. Talk by Tim Miles: 'Gardens of the  
Cotswold Wildlife Park'.

**18th (Monday)**

11am Ellendune Community Centre Wroughton. The  
Arts Society: Kennet and Swindon. Lecture by Tim  
Redmond: 'A Tour of Big Ben'. Guests welcome £7.  
01793 840790.

7.30pm Kennet Valley Hall Lockeridge. National  
Trust Association. Talk by Nick Baxter: 'The Origins  
of Marlborough'. £4 non members.

**20th (Wednesday) (NB not Thursday)**

7.30pm St Peter's Church. Marlborough History  
Society. Robin Nelson talks about the musical scene in  
Europe in the last quarter of the 18th century -  
'Mozart and the Enlightenment' - non-members £5;  
students half-price.

**22nd (Friday)**

High Street. Christmas Lights Switch On.

**24th (Sunday)**

7.30pm St Peter's Church. Brilliant Young Musicians:  
Royal College of Music scholars, Polly Bartlett (oboe),  
Jonathan Musgrave (piano) and Findlay Spence (cello),  
perform a stunning programme of music - tickets  
(£10/£8) from White Horse Bookshop, Sound  
Knowledge, or on the door on the night.

## 26<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)

7.30pm Bouverie Hall, Pewsey. The Arts Society Pewsey Vale. Lecture by Roger Askew: 'Gilbert & Sullivan – The Savoy Operas'. Visitors welcome. £7.

Membership Secretary: 07775 683163.

## 29<sup>th</sup> (Friday)

7.30pm St. John's Theatre on the Hill. Kempson Rosedale Enterprise Trust. Tara Parks tells the story of her solo cycle from UK to Kathmandu: 'Pedal to Nepal'. Doors and bar open 6.30pm. Adults £10 (school children free).

## 30<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)

10am-3pm Ogbourne St Andrew Church SN8 1SD. Christmas Fair, Local History Exhibition & Ogbourne Art. 512125.



The poster features a white central box with a gold border, set against a background of gold polka dots. At the top left is the Save the Children logo, a red stylized figure with arms raised. To its right, the text 'Save the Children' is in bold black, with '100 YEARS' in red below it. The main title 'Centenary Soup Lunch' is in large red font, followed by 'Wesley Hall, Marlborough' in bold black. Below that, the date and time 'Saturday 16th November 11.00 - 14.00' are in bold black. Further down, the text 'Coffee from 11am' is in black, followed by 'With homemade soup, bread and cheese from £12' in bold black. Below that, 'Christmas Cards - Bring & Buy - Raffle' is in black, and 'Please support and bring your friends!' is in bold black. At the bottom, 'Charity No. 213890' is in small black text.

## MAGNIFICAT!

Marlborough Choral Society Christmas Concert

The Marlborough Choral Society will present our annual Christmas concert on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30 at St Mary's Church in Marlborough. The programme features "Magnificat" by John Rutter and seasonal pieces by Ralph Vaughan Williams, Benjamin Britten and Eric Whitacre.

Tickets (£10, £2 students and children free) are available from Sound Knowledge, from choir members or at the door.

[www.marlboroughchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.marlboroughchoralsociety.org.uk)

I keep seeing magazine articles and TV programmes about ‘turning your hobby into a business’, or ‘making money from your passion’. I’m not at all sure that it’s a good idea – I’m a woman without hobbies, but I imagine that ‘having’ to do something to fulfil an order must be the fastest way to disenchantment. My main pastime is reading, and yes, I earn my living as a bookseller, so that does sound as though I’ve just shot my own argument down in flames. But if truth be told, there are days when I go home feeling slightly bloated with print and queasily unable to face another volume, and when customers ask ‘have you read this?’ I have to stifle a *moue* of indifference. Fortunately for everyone, the feeling doesn’t tend to last long, although sometimes I do have to put myself on a starvation diet of mindless TV, a sort of cerebral purging. Then I can rise refreshed from the sofa, and tackle great meaty novels and vast biographies with fat indexes.

Have you spotted where I’m going with this? Correct – I don’t seem to have read very much lately, having been tied up with the groaning board of LitFest. My To-Be-Read and Partially-Read pile is looking healthy though – I’m looking forward to the latest Flavia Albia novel, *A Capitol Death*, by Lindsey Davis, and I’m half-way through Thomas Penn’s account of the Wars of the Roses, *The Brothers York*. Edward IV, (grandfather of Henry VIII, which explains a lot about Bluff King Hal), Richard III (heroic martyr or murderous usurper – discuss) and their brother, George ‘Butt-of-Malmsey’ Clarence (inept plotter) were the brothers whose dynasty appeared unassailable, but which destroyed itself. Recommendations work both ways, so I’m going to read *Turbulence* by David Szalay, a volume of linked stories which Angus tells me are a gently melancholy, elegantly written, clear and honest look at human interaction.

On holiday I lay on a beach and read two thoroughly enjoyable thrillers *Killing It* and the sequel *The Nursery* by Asia Mackay, which I thought were fresh, funny and pacy. Our heroine works for a Government Secret Service Section as an assassin. She’s highly skilled, ruthless and professional, and at the beginning of the first book has just returned to work from maternity leave. Original and inventive.

Actually, look at that – I am still a reader after all. Phew.

The Kempson Rosedale Enterprise Trust  
presents

## **Tara Parks: Pedal to Nepal**

**Theatre on the Hill, St John's, Marlborough**  
**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019 7.30 pm.**  
Bar opens 6.30pm.

*Tara tells the story of her solo cycle from UK to Kathmandu*

Tickets: £10.00 adults, school children free.  
Tickets from White Horse Bookshop, [www.Eventbrite](http://www.Eventbrite.com), or on the door.  
This talk will have live subtitles.

## **“Brilliant Young International Musicians in St Peter’s Church”**

**Sunday 24 November, 7.30pm**

Jonathan Musgave (piano)    Polly Bartlett (oboe)    Findlay Spence (cello)

These young upcoming musicians have performed in the Wigmore Hall, Royal Festival Hall, and Queen Elizabeth Hall in London. Naturally the next venue should be St Peter's Church, Marlborough where they will be playing music by:-

Francois Devienne Robert Schumann and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Do come!

You will not be disappointed! And students aged 18 and under will be welcome with free entry.

Tickets at £10 (£8 for members of St Peter's Trust) are available from White Horse Bookshop and Sound Knowledge or on the door on the night.

## **November is our month for remembering.**

November 1<sup>st</sup> is All Saints Day when we remember all the saints who have gone before. All Souls Day is November 2<sup>nd</sup> and remembers the souls of all the departed. ‘Remember, remember the 5<sup>th</sup> of November gunpowder, treason and plot.’ November 11<sup>th</sup> is Armistice Day when we remember that at 11 o’clock on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month 1918 hostilities ceased.

The good book is full of admonitions to remember: ‘Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw nigh’ Ecclesiastes 12:1. ‘Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy’ Exodus 20:8. At the last supper Jesus said, ‘Do this in remembrance of me’ Luke 22:19.

So, there are many things to remember this month, it feels right in November as the leaves are falling off the trees, and the Bible is full of encouragements to remember.

But, what if you don’t want to remember?

In the village I grew up in there was an older man called Neville who used to come to church. Dad told me that Neville had fought on one of the Normandy beaches on D-Day. He was 19 and had lost many of his friends, and he hadn’t talked about D-Day ever since it happened. And as a young adult I was surprised by this and rather naively wanted to talk to Neville about it.

At the same time a film came out called ‘Saving Private Ryan’ which begins with a brutal re-enactment of D-Day. After I left the cinema, I thought to myself, ‘If that had happened to me, I’m not sure I would want to remember it either’.

Things happen in life that shouldn’t happen. And I’m afraid this isn’t confined to war. There are things that we have seen, things that have happened to us, things that we have done that we simply do not want to remember. We wish we could forget.

St Peter had an experience like this. He had the privilege and joy of following Jesus for three years. He had seen, heard and been part of some of the most extraordinary events in history. He promised to follow Jesus right to the end but famously denied Jesus three times before the cock crowed. Remembering Jesus’ words about this led to bitter tears of regret. I suppose he wanted to forget, move on, avoid, deny, bury and hide.

*Continued on page 25*

# Marlborough Churches Together

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## Usual Sunday Service times

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

- 9.00am Service with Communion (1st Sunday)
- 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

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- St Mary's** Holy Communion: 10.30am Wednesday
- St Thomas More** Mass: 10.00am Mon, Tues, Wed and Sat Holy Days
- St George's** 4.30pm Weds: Tea Time followed by Evening Prayer  
12.30 pm (1st Wednesday): Teddy Prayers & Picnic,  
a special service for U5s & carers followed by a picnic lunch



# Marlborough Church Contacts

---

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**FROM THE REGISTERS**

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**Baptisms - we welcome:**

15<sup>th</sup> September - Ottiline Henrietta Edwards at St George's

22 September – Freya Darcy Johnson at St Mary's

**Funerals - we pray for the families of:**

6 September – Stephen Anthony Hurd (86) of Glebe House, Minal

*St John the Baptist, Minal and North Wilts Crematorium, Royal Wootton Bassett*

16 September – Eileen Milson (90) of Merlin Court, Marlborough

*North Wilts Crematorium, Royal Wootton Bassett*

19 September – Heather Gyllenkrok Grant Coulter (78) of Fisherman's House, Minal

*St John the Baptist, Minal and North Wilts Crematorium, Royal Wootton Bassett*

30 September – Peter Stanley Beauchamp White (79) of High Street, Manton

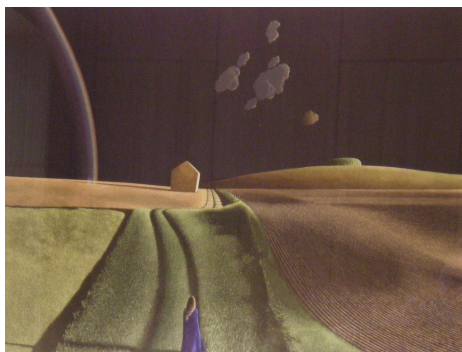
*St George's Preshute and Marlborough Cemetery*

September's exhibition at The White Horse Gallery was *Wessex Landscapes*, a collection of prints and etchings by David Inshaw, a prolific artist who has recently been described in *The Spectator* as 'perhaps the greatest living proponent of the English Romantic tradition'.

Born in 1943, David Inshaw's paintings are held in many private and public collections including Tate Britain, The Arts Council and the British Council. One of his most famous and recognisable pieces, *The Badminton Game* gained great public attention in the seventies, and was exhibited at the ICA *Summer Studio* exhibition in London in 1973. His exhibition at the White Horse Gallery was in collaboration with Wessex Gallery Press.

Some paintings leave you empty, flat, unimpressed and emotionless. Others, like David Inshaw's, do the complete reverse. Originally oil paintings, these prints as well as etchings are simply majestic. Dark, muted, autumnal colours and undertones filled the gallery walls with quiet confidence.

On first encounter I immediately thought 'Grant Wood' - rolling hills, square upright houses and just the occasional lonely individual with a somewhat vacant expression. Some prints are like freeze frame photographs, whereas others such as *Cricket Game* and *Bonfire Tree and Moon* (my personal favourite) are like slow moving images. *The Cricket Game* for example, a snapshot of traditional 'British Summertime' being played on lush green ground, undisturbed by anything, and *Bonfire...*, immediately transporting the viewer to those cold smoky evenings spent outside watching fireworks, breathing in the smell of cordite. To use 'techy' language, these images reminded me somewhat of the 'live action' function on an iPhone - a still image that only moves when you press and hold the screen. Unlike some of Wood's paintings, Inshaw's seem more honest, more sincere.



This collection is earthy and tender. His work is terrific.

*Wessex Landscapes* was at the White Horse Gallery from 26<sup>th</sup> September – 13<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

The next show at The White Horse Gallery will be **Nigel Hudson**, *Savernake Light – Photographs from the Forest*: 16<sup>th</sup> October – 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2019.



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*Continued from page 19*

However, the story for Peter doesn't end there. Jesus is crucified and rises again. And on the shores of Lake Galilee where Peter and Jesus first met, he is restored. Three times Jesus asks Peter if he loves him. Twice Peter replies yes. But when Jesus asked the third time, perhaps Peter remembered his three denials. He was hurt and this time he replies, 'Lord you know all things; you know that I love you.'

Peter had to revisit with Jesus that which he didn't wish to remember. But in going back with the Lord he was healed, restored, forgiven and made whole. If we need to we can always revisit moments with the same Lord who loves us and wants to make us whole.



**Kennet & Avon**  
MEDICAL PARTNERSHIP

## **Kennet and Avon Medical Partnership Patient Participation Group (PPG) Update**

Did you know...

The PPG is undertaking a survey of our patients with the hope of identifying what is and what is not working for you at the Kennet and Avon Medical Partnership. The PPG intend to feedback the information to the practice to help them provide the best possible service to patients. Papers copies are available at both our sites, or you can complete the survey online at the following link:

[www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/9YC5NZK](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/9YC5NZK)

Reports of our previous surveys can be found at  
[www.kamp.nhs.uk/practice-information/ppg-surveys/](http://www.kamp.nhs.uk/practice-information/ppg-surveys/)

# News from the Churches

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## All Souls (Marlborough Churches Together)

The All Souls' Service takes place at St Mary's Church on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 4pm. This is an Ecumenical Service of thanksgiving and remembrance for those who have died during the past year.



## The Fraternal Meeting

Will be on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 12.45pm in the Quaker Meeting House; all are welcome.

## MAPAG

There will be no meeting in August. All welcome to the meeting on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November in the Quaker Meeting House, 7.30pm.

## Remembrance Sunday – 10<sup>th</sup> November

All are welcome to follow the Parade in the High Street, Marlborough to the War Memorial for the laying of wreaths and the two-minutes silences before continuing to the Remembrance Sunday Service in St Mary's Church, starting at 11.15am.

A shorter and more informal Remembrance Service, particularly suitable for children and families, will be held at 5.30pm in St Mary's Church.

St George's, Preshute and St John the Baptist, Minal will start their Remembrance Sunday Services at 10.00am.

At Christchurch members of the congregation can leave the Service to join the Parade at the War Memorial just before 11am to observe the two-minutes silence.

## Sunday Lunch Club

Meets on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November in the Wesley hall, followed by an audio visual with Eric Gilbert. To book a place please ring the office (513701) by Friday 8<sup>th</sup>. Cost £7.50.

## Women's Fellowship Programme

Meets on Tuesdays at 2.45pm at Christchurch.

Nov 12<sup>th</sup> Ruth Richards

Nov 26<sup>th</sup> Tea and Chat





## Messy Church for Advent

Takes place in St Mary's on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November from 4 to 6pm. The theme will be celebrating Advent; all ages welcome but under 8s to be accompanied by parent or carer. For more details please contact Caroline: cphilps2@gmail.com.

## St Thomas More

The parish lunch will be on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November in the Kennet Valley Village Hall, Lockeridge. Doors open 12 noon.

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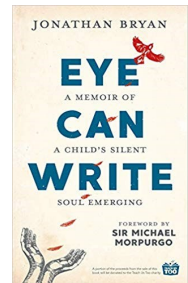
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November, 7.30pm in St Mary's Church

**Jonathan Bryan, a 13 year old with severe cerebral palsy, is coming to share his story, his faith and his poems.**

*Eye Can Write: A Memoir of a Child's Silent Soul Emerging* is a remarkable book. Sir Michael Morpurgo writes: 'A writer of great emotional and intellectual depth .... His words tell us so much about our universal human resilience, our capacity for understanding, our longing to communicate.'

CBBC made a film *My Life* with Jonathan; he has received a Diana Legacy Award presented by Princes William and Harry; and made a speech via his mother in the House of Lords.

Do come and meet this remarkable family.



**AMNESTY BARN DANCE**  
**Saturday 2nd November 7.30 pm**  
**Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge**

**Live music – BYO food & drink**  
Tickets: Jo: joripley@phonecoop.coop  
07419370998

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## Every Month

<i>What's On</i>	Karen Osborne	whats.on@towerandtown.org.uk	514364
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<i>News from the Churches</i>	Alison Selby	church.news@towerandtown.org.uk Crossmead, Kingsbury St, SN8 1HU	511128
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<i>Family News</i>	Jessy Pomfret	family.news@towerandtown.org.uk	
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**Website, online edition** [www.towerandtown.org.uk](http://www.towerandtown.org.uk); [info@towerandtown.org.uk](mailto:info@towerandtown.org.uk)

**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 Tuesday 12th November please.

**Our Advertisers** support us. Contact Andrew Unwin if you would like to join them. Tower and Town is available at St Mary's, Christchurch, St Peter's, Mustard Seed and at St George's, Preshute.

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