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# TOWER AND TOWN

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The Kennet

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APRIL 2016 50P

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# TOWER<sup>AND</sup>TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

NUMBER 658 APRIL 2016



## The Kennet

The River Kennet runs from source to sea through many miles of English countryside and our very own Marlborough town is fortunate enough to be one of the scenic sites along the way. Aside from the unique animal and plant life that the river is home to, it is also one of few chalk streams on our planet. In this edition of Tower and Town, pupils from Marlborough College have explored its history further, all the way from the Neolithic period and the industrial development of the Kennet to the ways in which we can work now to protect and conserve the river to make sure that it is part of the town's future. Research by groups such as ARK shows the impact of pollution and abstraction on our environment and even how invasive flora and fauna are threatening the stream.

There are also creative accounts telling of fishing and the beauty of daily life on the river as well as an article that looks into the life and works of the great poet Lord Tennyson and the role of the Kennet in his inspiration. You will also find a short history of fly fishing, and the influence that the famous riverkeeper Frank Sawyer had on this iconic chalk stream.

**Isabel Sanderson for Nick Gordon, Editor**

**Front cover and most photographs: Ian Leonard**

# Clergy Letter: Andrew Studdert-Kennedy

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## *Water: Friend or Foe?*

Given that water is such an essential part of life and given that religions seek to help us make sense of life, water is bound to have a part to play in religious traditions. And of course it does.

It is water's life-giving properties as well as its powers of cleansing and purifying that allow so many different rituals to be built around it. So much of what we say about water can be understood in both a literal and symbolic way. Whether it is free flowing or stagnant, whether it is clean or dirty, whether it cascades or accumulates, water's condition can cast light on our own. No wonder it is so beloved of artists and poets as well as the religious.

Looking at the different contributions about the Kennet allows the reader to see that the river is understood as a blessing to the town and countryside surrounding Marlborough. The water of the Kennet is seen as benign.

Had the compiler of this issue of *Tower & Town* gone on tour to Cumbria in December and commissioned a series of articles about the local rivers there, the contributions would have been altogether different. Destruction, flooding and homelessness caused by water flowing out of control would have made it clear that water is a threat.

The ambiguity of water is captured very clearly in the first two chapters of the Bible, Genesis Chapters 1 and 2, the two different accounts of Creation.

In Chapter 1 water covers everything and dry land appears out of the waters once God gathers the waters into one place on the third day. In Chapter 2 there is no life until the Lord God causes rain to fall on the ground which then allows man to be formed from the dust of the earth.

In the first account, then, water is malign; it is out of the chaos of flood that dry land emerges, whereas in the second account, water is life giving and benign. These two traditions, conveniently signalled by each having a different way of addressing God ('God' and 'Lord God'), are understood to have emerged from two very different geographical areas – Mesopotamia and the Desert.

Mesopotamia, the land between the rivers Tigris and Euphrates, was prone to flooding and its inhabitants were therefore aware of the dangers of water, whilst the desert tradition would see water as creative.

It is interesting to note that in Christian Baptism, these two understandings of water, the destructive and the creative, come together. Baptism, which will often involve total immersion in water, represents a dying to an old way of life and the commencement of a new and enhanced life as the old is washed away.

# England's Chalk Streams: Oscar Waters

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## *The rare and precious environments that are England's chalk streams.*

Chalk streams are very simply streams that run through chalk hills. They rely on rain water in winter that soaks down through the soil into chalk aquifers which act like sponges and release the water through the year. Typically, chalk streams are wide and shallow. Due to the filtering effect of the chalk they are almost crystal clear and slightly alkaline. There are only 210 chalk streams in the world; 160 of which lie in England. In Marlborough we are lucky enough to have one, the River Kennet.

Because chalk streams are different from normal streams they offer different characteristics and therefore support special wildlife. Other main chalk streams also include the Avon, the Itchen and the Test.

Many people still view these chalk streams as simply normal rivers but this in fact is how they are damaged. Over 77% of chalk streams are failing to meet the status of the Water Framework Directive. Only 21 out of 224 are protected.



Many towns including Marlborough are supplied by water from the river Kennet and abstracting water out of the rivers is a constant problem. In the past it has left lower regions of the Kennet with very low water or sometimes even no water, as in the winter of 2012. In other parts of England, though, rivers such as the River Beane have dried up completely in the last decade due to over-extraction. As the rivers are

replenished via springs it is harder for the river to refill further downstream. Diffuse pollution coming from farms can pose a threat to the natural clear and alkaline chalk streams.

Like an endangered species these rivers should be protected and put back into their original condition.

So how can we get our chalk streams to be healthy again? The World Wildlife Fund thinks that these key points will lead to every Chalk Stream running healthily:

- Government leadership to champion chalk streams.
- Fit for purpose regulation for abstraction and pollution.
- A chalk stream forum for learning and scrutiny.
- To value our chalk streams.
- Our protected chalk streams restored and protected.

# Conservation: James Barnes, Nikita Tsyganov

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## *Improving the River Kennet: Care and Conservation . The important conservation work going on at Marlborough College in collaboration with Action for the River Kennet (ARK).*

ARK has been working with Marlborough College's Estates Department and groups of students for the past three years. The aim is to restore a section of the river that runs from the Pewsey Road Bridge all the way to Manton.

One of ARK's original aims was to reduce the amount of water abstracted from the river for the inhabitants of Swindon. After many years of campaigning, Thames Water is building a pipeline to connect north and south Swindon and to supply both from a reservoir near Abingdon. This will reduce the amount of water which leaves the Kennet valley.

They are involved in various projects which are described below.

Under Fox's Bridge there is a weir which was initially installed to raise the river level for the creation of the two artificial ponds. However, this was slowing the flow of water and preventing upstream migration of fish. To solve this, a V-shaped section was cut out of the weir.



The team are narrowing the river by staking bundles of woody material parallel to the banks. The benefit of this is faster flow rates and the scouring out of silt, which is replaced by gravel in which trout lay their eggs. Faster flows should also encourage the growth of riverweed, which provides ideal habitat for the invertebrates which fish feed on.

They have built small obstructions in the middle of the river. The effect of these is similar to that of narrowing the river.

Action for the River Kennet is a truly commendable and respectable organisation and this work in Marlborough is only part of what they do. Keeping our rivers healthy is vital and without ARK we may lose a major chalk stream. Their projects are on-going and will continue for the foreseeable future.

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# Extraction, Pollution: Phoebe Kemp

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## *Pollution and Water Extraction from the River Kennet.*

The River Kennet is a precious, natural resource but that has not prevented water companies extracting significant amounts of water from it for domestic use. Will the building of a new pipeline make a difference?

Thames Water has been accused many times of over-abstraction of the water from the Kennet after stretches of the river have dried up. In late 2011, half a kilometre of the Kennet was completely dry. It is said that the last time that this stretch dried up so disastrously was in 1976. The company has a licence to take up to 2.9m gallons from the river's aquifer each day; this is the same as five Olympic-sized swimming pools.

A new drinking water pipeline has been introduced next to the A346. This means that Thames Water is able to stop taking groundwater from the River Og, which feeds into the Kennet. It also allows them to halve the amount of groundwater it takes out of the Kennet catchment at Axford. Work on this pipeline began in August 2015 and is due to be finished by Christmas 2016. It is 18.2 km long and is part of a £25m project to protect the Kennet. The Environment Agency is passionate to ensure that this idea is successful as the river is one of only two hundred chalk streams in the world.

The Environment Agency also announced in July that it will be making changes to the Thames Water abstraction licence from April 2017. Thames Water put forward the idea of the pipeline in response to this announcement from the Environment Agency. They also believe that abstractions from the river are having a detrimental impact on it. Steve Tuck, who is the Thames Water abstraction manager, said "We're always conscious of the need to provide our customers with a reliable source of water whilst also protecting the environment. We're really pleased to be building a new pipeline that will help us both." Tuck also agrees with the Environment Agency and ARK about needing to reduce their reliance on the Kennet and they believe that the pipeline will help to ensure a healthy future for the important chalk stream, which gives so much pleasure to so many people. ARK have been campaigning for twenty years on this cause.

There is a national initiative regularly monitoring water quality. Many members of the public are devoted to checking the health of the river and many are passionate about preserving its beauty. There are high hopes for the improvement of the quality of the river and many are excited for 2017 when the progression should begin to improve dramatically.

# Kennet Fauna: Hester Bromovsky

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*Hester Bromovsky explores the native fauna of the river Kennet and investigates the invasive species that are threatening them.*

The River Kennet's mineral rich water hosts a wide range of precious flora and fauna. Some of these species are under threat.



Research has stated that the crayfish native to the River Kennet will be extinct in two decades unless something is done to protect them. They are under threat from the invasive North American Signal Crayfish. The native crayfish can be identified by their white claws and are smaller than the invasive species which threatens them. The White-Clawed Crayfish are very common in parts of the river, lurking by day in holes and roots on the bank, but emerging at dusk to feed. Signal Crayfish are aggressive and fast breeding. On average they are c.5cm long. They have put the native white clawed crayfish in danger because they

compete for the same types of food but the Signal Crayfish are faster and therefore leave no food for the native crayfish. Not only this but they also carry a water borne fungus which is fatal to the native species.

Another invasive species is the Himalayan Balsam. This is a densely growing pink- and red-stemmed weed. It was introduced in Britain in 1839, when the plant escaped from gardens and rapidly colonised river banks and other areas of damp land. It is the tallest annual plant in Britain as it grows up to three metres. Not only is it very tall but it is incredibly dense, so that it stifles the other, native grasses and blocks the light from them causing them to die. The plant blooms in June but by autumn it dies back leaving the banks bare and liable to erosion. The Himalayan Balsam threatens plants such as grey willow and rare copper moss, which grow on the banks of the Kennet.



The American Mink has come to Britain from North America. It first arrived in 1929, when it was fashionable to wear mink fur. People created farms all around

Britain. By the 1950's huge numbers of mink had escaped, and there were also a few deliberate releases so that it is now impossible to estimate the number of mink in Britain today. They usually hunt in woodland and near water courses where they eat fish. They have endangered many native species but in particular the water vole. The water vole is often mistaken for a rat but it has a much rounder head and browner fur. Their burrow entrances are often just above waters edge. These are found on the banks of the Kennet around Marlborough.



The Kennet provides a rare and special environment for many of our native species. Preserving and conserving them is of huge importance to us all.

### **Marlborough Choral Society**

**Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup> 7.30pm in St Mary's Church**

John Rutter - Requiem

Joseph Haydn – Harmoniemesse

Tickets £8 (£1 for students, Under 16s free). Refreshments available during the interval. Tickets available from Sound Knowledge, choir members or on the door or phone Jane on 01672 511880.

### **The Heart of Things – Paul Hobbs**

From Saturday 30th April to Thursday 5th May the artist Paul Hobbs will be exhibiting at St Mary's Church. Paul Hobbs creates paintings and sculptures that consider contemporary social issues in the light of biblical values. One of his most famous installations is Holy Ground, a collection of shoes and stories from Christians around the world. Other artwork included The Gate, and The Ten Words. Local schools will be invited to visit the exhibition, and St Mary's Church will be open daily. More information on events and opportunities to meet Paul to talk about his artwork will be advertised shortly. More information can be found on [www.arthobbs.com](http://www.arthobbs.com) and here on page 17.

# Fishing The Kennet: Joss Fellowes

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## *Joss Fellowes recounts his own Experiences of Fishing on the Kennet and other South of England Rivers.*

I love fishing for many reasons; it is an escape from the business of life. I love the feeling of the fish biting, skilfully reeling the fish in. But what I love most about fishing is eating a freshly caught trout after a long day's fishing. I am lucky enough to go to Marlborough College where the River Kennet is right on our doorstep. I also live around the River Wylde so I am a keen fisherman myself. I have had some outstanding days' fishing on the River Kennet; I even caught my best fish on the Kennet, a 3.5lb wild brown trout. But it took me a while to get grips with fishing, so I want to share with you some advice on how to avoid my mistakes.

I am going to start with the rod. If you are an inexperienced fisherman you could make the mistake of thinking all rods are the same. There are essentially two types of rods, fly rods and spinning rods. There are many divisions within that but for the Kennet a fly rod is best. When I bought my first rod I bought a lake rod, it was a fly rod but far too heavy for rivers like the Kennet. I went on for about a year with this rod and didn't catch a single fish. I then bought the proper rod (a five weight) and then I started to catch some fish. The five weight is good because it doesn't spook the fish by making too much of a splash. The type of rod is very important.

There are two types of flies, dry flies which float and wet flies which sink. Knots on your flies are essential. To make sure that you don't lose your flies you need to give your knot a test by tugging on it. Once when I was fishing on the Kennet my fly came off whilst I was casting. I then continued for about ten minutes without a fly on! I have also lost countless fish on poorly tied knots. Also you have to remember to use floatant on dry flies unless you want them to turn into wet flies! When you are using wet flies, strike indicators are good ways of knowing when you have a bite and when to strike.

It is common to take your favourite fly and tie it on without any real thought. I used to do this and unsurprisingly wasn't catching many fish. I was taught to use my net to physically catch a fly in the net. This way you can see what the fly life is like on the water.

When you are choosing your flies another really easy way to decide what fly to tie on is look around. Some flies stay close to bushes so the fish there will eat that sort of fly most. For example there are a lot of hawthorn bushes. A good, easy technique for spotting flies is to find a spider's web and see what it has caught. This means that hawthorn flies work really well around this area. Another reason to look around you is in case there is a tree behind you. I have lost countless numbers of

flies to trees! When you are fishing in a catch and release area make sure you use barbless flies. I am a supporter of catch and release, it means that future generations will be able to enjoy the same level of fishing as we are lucky enough to have by supporting rather than killing wild fish.

If you have mastered the techniques of fishing then these three important factors will make you a much better fisherman and enable you to catch lots more fish.



# Tennyson's *The Brook*: Violet Elworthy

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*The Victorian poet, Alfred Lord Tennyson, was a frequent visitor to Marlborough College due to his friendship with headmaster George Bradley. He sent his son Hallam to the school. Tennyson is thought to have spent many an hour composing his poetry in the beautiful surroundings of the Kennet, including his long poem 'The Brook'.*

My feet sink into the saturated mud as I near the water's edge. I am greeted by the familiar sight of the river that I know so well. Its glistening, clear water tumbles over the chalky bed; cool and refreshing in contrast to the sun that beats down on me so strongly. Transfixed by the sight in front of me I am filled with a deep sense of awe. My mind idly drifts up the river to its joyous birth; it bubbles from the ground before it chatters down a valley, growing in strength when the crystal water tumbles over itself down the hills. It winds and winds through little ridges then bursts into deep green pools fringed with willows that trail their delicate leaves in the rushing water.

It babbles on past the mills and bridges of this little town - ignoring the clatter of hooves and carriages on the Bath Road. My feet on the river bank are insignificant in comparison to the wonders of its great journey. It will meander onwards until it meets the mighty Thames and is swept up in the current. Venturing on, finally it will never rest as part of the colossal ocean. On its travels it will see busy London, and carry river barges on its surface.

My thoughts linger on this before I am shaken from my daze at the sound of some schoolboys shouting light heartedly from behind Bradley's house; perhaps it is Hallam and his friends. I reach for the battered leather bound book that I write my poems in. Sitting down on the damp grass I begin to write. The words flow down my arm, to my hand, through the thick black ink and onto the paper. My usually jerky and inelegant handwriting strangely looks as sinuous and smooth as the river I am describing. The poem goes on and on, just like the timeless River Kennet in front of me. When I reach the end my fountain pen runs dry, mirroring my thoughts, and I know it is complete. Above it in the space I left for the title I scrawl *'The Brook'*.

Looking up I see that it is beginning to get damp, I must have been out for hours. Only now do I feel the cold of the damp grass beneath me. I shake my head, as if trying to jolt myself back into existence, gingerly stand up and make my way back to the Master's house. Bradley must be wondering where I am.

# Sunrise on The Kennet: Ben Mears

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The warm glow of the sun crept over the grass. The surface of the Kennet shimmered like a twinkling star on a summer's night. During the cool night, small dewdrops had formed on the grass, and a mist hung lazily over the river. Elegant bird songs rung through the wood as if a church bell in a village. Some feathers from the birds floated to the ground and landed softly on the water.

The water gently lapped at the sandy shore, soaking the sand. The riverbed was perfectly still and all the sunlight flooded in, showing the rays of light in the water and dark shadows of the trout in the early morning, swimming and splashing about amongst the rocks and pebbles.

A slight breeze rustled the leaves.

All that was living sensed the strong smell of summer, a warm shiver was sent through the small furry mammals that roamed the riverbanks. A badger aimlessly ambled by, leaving its small footprints within the muddy banks. It took a small sip from the river and went on with life, a relaxing life at that.

Small flowers opened and showed their intricate beauty.

Some rambblers trudged through the mud alongside the river. With large maps lightly swaying from their necks, and overly packed rucksacks, they were unaware of the thousands of life forms that thrived from the river.

Further down the river, a town was awaking to another day. The century-old concrete of the small bridge was tested and strained as a car drove upon it. Every scratch and mark in the bridge signified a significant part in its life, a moment that could never be erased.

A labrador as black as the night giddily loped through the river as if nothing better had ever occurred within its sweet innocent life. Its owner remained on the paths as early morning sogginess was not something that appealed to him. A small 'tring' of a bell opened the way for some cyclists who swiftly followed the flow of the river.

A new day, a new beginning for all.



*Town Mill Trout Ladder*

# What's on in April

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## Regular events

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### 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.

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## April calendar

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### 31<sup>st</sup> March-2<sup>nd</sup> April; 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>; 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>; 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>

10am-5pm Rabley Drawing Centre: Art Exhibition.

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

10am-4pm Bouverie Hall, Pewsey: Spring Fayre. £2 entry (children free) in aid of GWH radiotherapy unit appeal.

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

10am-12.30pm The Merchant's House. Spring Study Course lecture 3. Michael Hart: *The Restoration & Glorious Revolution: Politics and Religion In The Age Of Charles II, James II and William III.* £15 (£12 MH Friends).

7.15pm Town Hall. Live From ROH: *Giselle*. £15 in advance, £17.50 on the door.

7.30pm Wesley Hall, Oxford St. WI talk by Valerie Treffall: *Secrets of Honeymoon Suitcase*.

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

7.15pm Town Hall. Film *Burnt* (15). £5 in advance, £6 on the door.

- 10<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)**  
7.30pm St Peter's Church. Concert: Kausikan Rajeshkumar (piano). £10 (£8 members of St Peter's Trust & MBG).
- 11<sup>th</sup> (Monday)**  
7.30pm Bouverie Hall, Pewsey. Pewsey Vale DFAS lecture by Rosalind Whyte: *Anthony Gormley—A Body of Work*. 07775 683 163.
- 12<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)**  
Marlborough College: start of Summer term.
- 13<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)**  
St John's Academy: start of Term 5.  
12.30pm 40 St Martins. Widows' Friendship Group Lunch. 514 030.  
7.45pm Wesley Hall, Oxford St. Gardening Assn. talk by Sandy Worth: *Poppies*.
- 14<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)**  
6.30pm St Peter's Church. The Merchant's House Spring Lecture. David Sherratt: *The Earl and Rector, Mayor and Councillor - a tale of 18<sup>th</sup> century Privilege and Patronage*. Tickets £15 from The Merchant's House or on the door.
- 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> (Thursday, Friday, Saturday)**  
7.45pm Town Hall. Marlborough Players present two one-act plays: *Easy Stages* and *Hiss the Villain*. £8 from the White Horse Bookshop.
- 16<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)**  
St John's. Bike sale.
- 17<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)**  
From 8am Marlborough Common. Car Boot Sale in aid of Wiltshire Air Ambulance.
- 18<sup>th</sup> (Monday)**  
11am Ellendune Community Centre, Wroughton. Kennet DFAS lecture by Imogen Corrigan: *The Anglo-Saxons*.  
7.30pm Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. KV National Trust Association lecture by Barry Smith: *Stowe Landscape Garden*.
- 21<sup>st</sup> (Thursday)**  
7.30pm St Peter's Church. History Society lecture by Ian Cuskie: *SS Gt Britain - from launch to re-launch*. Visitors £4.
- 19<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)**  
10am St John The Baptist, Mildenhall. Bicentenary celebration (1816-2016); exhibition till September: *History of the Church - Decay, Restoration and People*.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> (Friday-Tuesday)**  
10am - 4.30pm Kennet Valley Hall. Embroiderers' Guild 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition. 861 658.
- 24<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)**  
10.30am - 3pm Barbury Racecourse. Plant Fair. £3 entry in aid of KV Carriage Driving for the Disabled.
- 27<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)**  
7pm St John's. Brandt Group Annual Trophy Quiz. Team 4-6. £10 (£5 per student). Light refreshments included + prizes, raffle & free parking. 861 116.
- 30<sup>th</sup> April - 5<sup>th</sup> May**  
St Mary's Church. Paintings and sculpture by Paul Hobbs: *The Heart of Things*.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> May (Monday)**  
11am-4pm Bushton Manor SN4 7PX. Open Garden and Plant Fair. Entry £2 in aid of St Peter's Church, Clyffe Pypard.

## FROM THE REGISTERS

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### Departed

- 7 February Robert Shine (86) of Mill Hill, London (*formerly from Marlborough*)  
*Marlborough Cemetery*
- 10 February Grace Rosina Mary Denman (103) of 20 River Park, Marlborough  
*St Mary's and Kingsdown Crematorium*
- 10 February Florence 'Florrie or Flo' Denning (88) of Bassett House Care Home  
(*formerly from Marlborough*)  
*Marlborough Cemetery*
- 13 February Karen Mary James (44) of Marlborough  
*St Mary's and Marlborough Cemetery*
- 14 February Thomas 'Tom' Lancelot Raine (94) and Christine 'Chris' Raine (90)  
of 11 Cromwell Mews, Marlborough  
*Kingsdown Crematorium*
- 15 February Joan Elizabeth Frances Mabbutt (89) of 20 St Margaret's Mead,  
Marlborough  
*West Wiltshire Crematorium, Semington*
- 22 February Oliver 'Ollie' Henry Martin (79) of 9 Savernake Crescent,  
Marlborough  
*St Mary's and Marlborough Cemetery*
- 22 February Alan Francis Crane (89) of Strathlene, Back Lane, Marlborough  
*St Mary's and Kingsdown Crematorium*
- 23 February Anne Elizabeth Collett (65) of 6 York Place, Marlborough  
*Kingsdown Crematorium*
- 24 February Philip John Hart (62) of 3 Chiltern Court, Harrow  
*St Mary's and Marlborough Cemetery*



### Marlborough Medical Practice: Patient Participation Group (PPG) Update

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Did you know... *All patients registered with the Marlborough Medical Practice are allocated a **named GP**.* This GP is responsible for the co-ordination of all appropriate services that relate to the care and support that our surgery provides to you.

We hope that you are able to see this GP when you require an appointment with the practice. However, you will be able to book an appointment with any of our GPs.

It is now a national initiative that patients are allocated a named GP and are informed of who this is. So, *if you do not know who your named GP is our reception team will be happy to provide you with this information.* Please contact the practice after 11 am on weekdays on 01672 512187, or drop in and ask.

# Magic, Moats, Monuments: Isabel Sanderson

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From Silbury Hill to West Kennet Long Barrow and Avebury Stones, the rolling hills of Wiltshire are known for their mysterious monuments dating back to Neolithic times.

But could it in fact be our very own River Kennet that connects these sacred sites? In 1660 John Aubrey, a natural philosopher living in Wiltshire, drew a connection between these structures and the waterway that ran between. He discovered that, as the water table was the same if not lower 3000 years ago, the wet ditch around Stonehenge to the south and the plain around Silbury Hill would have flooded every year. Even the Marlborough Mound, within the College grounds, had a moat. What Aubrey did not know, however, was the purpose of incorporating these water features and what the point of their connection was.

Similar mounds to Silbury and Marlborough have been found around the world from America to Scandinavia. In Africa moats were believed to keep out evil spirits from the burial mounds. In Central America however they were the focus of ritual ceremonies and this could also be a reasonable conclusion to draw in England, too. The land surrounding the base of Silbury Hill would have flooded when the water level rose, acting like a mirror. The magnificent reflection would have appeared as though the hill was descending into the underworld and it is known that mirrors were an integral part of Shamanic ritual taking place at the time. The Shamans also worshipped the Kennet's source, Swallowhead spring located very near to the hill.

So, although unconfirmed, it is very possible that the beautiful river that we pass everyday, maybe without even noticing, was also worshipped as an integral part of the survival of the civilization in whose footsteps we now walk.

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## **Paul Hobbs at St Mary's Church: Proposed Programme**

Opening: Friday 29th April: *Meet Paul Hobbs over a glass of wine, between 6pm and 8pm*

Art Cafe: Saturday 30th April: *Coffee, cake and a conversation about art, between 10am and 12pm*

All Age Worship: Sunday 1st May 10am

Lunch time talk: Tuesday 3rd May 12.30pm: *Bring your own lunch; coffee and tea provided*

Pizza & Pictures: Tuesday 3rd May *For 11-18s, 6.30pm-8pm*

Stay & Play: Wednesday 4th May *For under 5s and their carers, between 2pm and 3pm*

Prayer and Meditation: Wednesday 4th May 7.30pm *Time to reflect and pray*

# Industry and The Kennet: Hannah Wilson

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## *The Industrial History of the River Kennet and Marlborough*

The River Kennet has played an influential part in the history of Marlborough's industry. At the heart of the historical development of the town of Marlborough was the tanning industry. Tanning is how animal hides are converted into leather. Its name originates from the tannic acid used in the process. Tanning is an ancient process which originated in around 2500 BC.

The first tannery in Marlborough opened around 1350, and by 1379 Marlborough had ten tanners. Sheepskins and wood found in the Savernake Forest, combined with water provided by the River Kennet, meant that the town was an ideal location for tanning. As a result of this Marlborough's tanning industry flourished throughout the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

Tanning was one of the major industries whose success was directly related to the River Kennet. However after a fire which started in one of the major tanneries there was a decline in the number of tanners in Marlborough. The fire engulfed both sides of the High Street up to St. Mary's Church. It burnt down 244 houses and led to the rebuilding of the High Street as we know it today.

Along the River Kennet there are still the remains of many aspects of industry - notably other mills. It was clear that the water provided by the Kennet was a huge part of the success and growth of the town. Not only did it provide the power needed but it was part of the transport link between Bristol and London. The Kennet and Avon canal, running parallel with and close to the Kennet, was created in 1810 and made a huge impact on those trading goods in the area. It provided a fast means of transport and trade in the area flourished.

Throughout its time the Kennet has undergone many changes, of which many have been to do with the success of the industry. One area where the river was built up was for a fulling mill which was built in 1215, an early period of time for such a mill. The mill was part of a process for cleaning wool and cloth. We can still see the remains of this at the Old Town Mill.

Marlborough's history is inextricably linked to the river that runs through it. The industries may have changed and moved on but their legacy can be seen in the very structure of the famous High Street that follows the route of the Kennet and in the whole construction of the town.

## A Bucket-List Item: Caroline Loveday

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*Having read and enjoyed last months T&T and the various things on people's 'Bucket list', Caroline Loveday and her husband, recently returned from a round the world trip, tell how they included one such thing they wanted to do.*

My late father Jess Chandler, local saddler and historian, had a life long interest in the sea and in particular Capt William Bligh, believing him to be a much maligned figure. In addition to writing *The History of Marlborough*, he wrote books about Captain Bligh and was considered an authority on the subject.

I was brought up on tales of the *Mutiny on the Bounty* and such like and knew of Pitcairn Island from an early age!

Consequently, when planning our trip, Christopher and I decided to make the challenging journey from Tahiti to Pitcairn - the smallest, remotest inhabited island in the world. It is a British Overseas Territory. This involved over a year in planning, and flying from Tahiti to Rikatea in the Gambier Islands with a refuelling stop for the twin turbo plane at a strip of land on Tureia.

A ferry took us to Mangareva, another of the Gambier Islands and there we boarded the supply ship Claymore II for the three-day voyage across the South Pacific to Pitcairn. The boat moored overnight and in the morning a long boat came out from Pitcairn to pick us up along with the various cargo and transport us back to the Island to a welcome from almost the entire population of 48 (no harbour and no landing strip on this steep and volcanic 1 mile wide x 2 mile long Island)

Quad bikes then took us up the 'Hill of Difficulty' to our accommodation with a delightful family - Charlene, a descendant of Fletcher Christian, the leader of the mutineers, her husband Vaine from the Cook Islands and their 8 year old daughter. On the Sabbath (Saturday) we attended the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

The Island is beautiful. Everything, from avocados to papayas to tomatoes and beans, grows abundantly. Goats and chickens are kept by most families. Bee hives were introduced by the British Government and the honey is reckoned to be the purest in the world. The climate is wonderful. There is only one car on the whole Island but each household has a quad bike. The flowers are beautiful and the marine life around the Island second to none. Turtles happily swim around in the water with you, close to the rocky shoreline.

Memories of paradise to last a life time!

# Life Here and Hereafter: Grace Denman

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*Reprinted from Tower and Town, March 2001*

I was born in 1912 so have been here a long time. I have been blessed with good health apart from nearly dying on two occasions – at two and half with measles and bronchitis and in my nineteenth year with double pneumonia. This was in the days when the chest was poulticed with kaolin – penicillin not yet having been discovered.

It is wonderful to have lived so long. **Every day is a bonus.** What a marvellous world this is with birdsong, the changing of the seasons, the beauty of the flowers and trees, glorious music, the love of one's friends and so many exciting things to do in retirement.

Of course at my age one wonders how long one will be here and what **life after death** will be like. The older one gets the more vivid the possibilities become! My first thought is that whatever shape my body will take or none, I shall arrive on that distant shore just as I am with all my faults of commission and omission. When I was a child it was said that the Good Lord had a big book in which all one's faults were recorded! Since I have always known that it was a possibility that I would be answerable for my mistakes, I have no fear!! I think it will be wonderful to meet up with my family and friends and others who have preceded me – in fact it will be very exciting. I do not subscribe to the theory that one will be idle. I'm sure the Good Lord has work for us all to do. There will be leisure of course to listen to lovely music – that which we hear “lifts us up to Heaven”. There it will be more beautiful with wonderful heavenly choirs.

Just one more idea. I have always thought that Heaven would not be heaven without the love and faithfulness of little dogs. There is no Biblical foundation for this but I feel they will be there. So besides doing something useful (after having done penance) and listening to heavenly music, I think I will also be walking a little dog!!

## **Marlborough Brandt Group Annual Trophy Quiz**

Wednesday 27 April at 7pm, St John's Academy

Open to teams of 4-6

Entry fee £10 per person ( £5 for students ), cheese and pate included.

Prizes Raffle Bar Free parking

Register your team at <http://www.mbg.org/events> or 01672 861116

# Marlborough Church Contacts

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**Fr John Blacker**

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

**The Revd Dr Janneke Blokland**

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

**The Revd Dr David Campbell**

892209; dc@marlboroughcollege.org  
*Chaplain, Marlborough College*

**The Revd Heather Cooper**

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

**The Revd Miri Keen**

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

**The Revd Dr David Maurice**

514119; david\_maurice2000@yahoo.com  
*Associate Minister, Marlborough Anglican Team*

**Rachel Rosedale**

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

**The Revd Canon Andrew Studdert-Kennedy**

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

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**Alison Selby**

511128; alison@crossmead.net  
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*Secretary, Marlborough Churches Together*

**Andrew Trowbridge**

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

**Laura Willis**

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

## Marlborough and Pewsey Catholic Churches Quiz

Saturday 9th April at St Mary's Church Hall, Silverless Street

Doors open at 7.30pm, Quiz starts at 8pm. Up to 6 in a team.

Tickets £5 (includes a Ploughman's Supper) from White Horse Bookshop or  
Doreen (01672 810617)

## Sunday April 10<sup>th</sup>: Cancer Research UK Marlborough Spring Fair

10am - 4pm Marlborough College Norwood Hall

Entry £5. Over 65 trade stands; tea, coffee, sandwiches and home-baked cakes.

Free parking, easy access for pushchairs and wheelchairs. Full details on

[www.marlbroughcancerresearch.org](http://www.marlbroughcancerresearch.org)

# Family News compiled by Audrey Peck

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**Caroline and Chris Loveday** had an adventurous holiday, inspired partly by the interests of Caroline's father, Jess Chandler. He ran the long established saddlery business and was deeply involved with his hobbies, mostly connected with the sea. (See T&T Online at [towerandtown.org.uk](http://towerandtown.org.uk) for a full account)

**Karen James** was 44, the youngest of six children, and the pride and joy of Sam and his late wife, Queenie. Her funeral followed the family tradition with a horse drawn carriage and wonderful floral tributes. She had been cared for by her sisters, Betty, Lily and Charlotte after her mother's death. She liked going to the Day Centre at the Youth Centre every day. She enjoyed shopping and going to the Conservative Club where her family and friends gathered after the service. Our condolences to Sam and all the family.

**Tom Dyke** lived in Bailey Acre. Sadly he died suddenly recently. Born in Staffordshire, he had been in the army for 16 years, the 16th/5th Queens Royal Lancers. He and Pam came to Marlborough in 1978 and he worked as a hospital porter. He played guitar and sang country and western songs, entertaining the troops in his army days. They have two daughters, Kay and Tracey, and seven grandchildren. Our sincere sympathy to all the family.

There was great sadness among family and friends at the sudden death of **Marie Ireson** on February 4th. Marie was born in Marlborough, the second eldest child of Ron and Olive Bray. She had two sons, Paul and Phillip. For many years she worked at Marlborough Children's hospital, now St Luke's Court in Hyde Lane. Later she was warden at York Place and then lived there until she died. She was partially blind but managed to walk to the High Street most days. Her gentle, sympathetic nature endeared her to friends and neighbours.

**Joan Mabbutt** was born in Kingsbury Square in 1926 and went to Marlborough Grammar School. She moved in to 20, St. Margaret's Mead as a bride when the house was new in 1947 and lived there for the rest of her life. Richard bought the house in 2000. She had worked in the cafe run by Mr Kerr in the old tile-hung, panelled building in the High St. on the site of Landmark and in the College laundry. She was a keen bingo player and really enjoyed her holidays in Devon. Richard has a son, Antony, and two grandchildren. Our thoughts are with them.

**Susan Clapp** died at home on January 30th. She and Richard came to live here in 1990. Susan was an interviewer in the Marlborough Oral History Project, recording local people's recollections of the town early in the last century. She was a keen supporter of the Merchant's House, working many hours on the Turkeywork project, a member of a number of groups in Kennet U3A and a volunteer fundraiser for a mental health charity. Deep sympathy to Richard, their

Angela & Paul Mc Grorty Trading as the

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or email: [marlboroughcarecompany@gmail.com](mailto:marlboroughcarecompany@gmail.com)

### Youth and Families Worker

St Mary's PCC is currently recruiting a full-time Youth and Families Worker (YFW). It is an exciting post with lots of opportunities. The new YFW will help to grow the work being carried out amongst children, families and young people in our parish, together with ecumenical partners and others in the town through the Devotion project

The closing date for application is 27th March, and we hope to have someone in post in June. If you'd like to know more about this post, make a financial contribution, or know someone who may be interested in applying, please be in touch with Janneke Blokland and consult the Marlborough Anglican Team website:

<http://www.marlboroughanglicanteam.org.uk/stmarysmarlborough.htm>

five children and seven grandchildren.

**Kathy and Ian Perryman** need help with the Christian Aid collections.

St. Peter's Trust lost a talented Trustee when **Alan Crane** died. He and Joyce retired to live in Back Lane in 1992 but it was a very active retirement. From setting out Joyce's flower plants in the church flower beds to practical work repairing the tower to getting funding from the National Lottery Alan was a "hands-on" Trustee. We are grateful for his hard work and send sympathy to Joyce and their children, Simon and Sarah.

# Marlborough Churches Together

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*Please check pages 29-31 for special services and events.*

## **Regular Sunday Service times**

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### **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**

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**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: 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 2-3pm  
Tea Time followed by Evening Prayer: 4.30pm Weds.

# Frank Sawyer at Marlborough: Ben Barnes

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Frank Sawyer remains one of the great figures in the world of fly fishing. He was born in 1906 at the Mill House in the village of Bulford on the banks of the River Avon, the river he is most closely associated with. He began his career in 1925 on the Avon at Lake, working for Lt-Col Bailey as assistant keeper to Fred Martin. He managed six miles of the river for Bailey's private fishing and leisure. Frank then became head keeper for the waters of the Officers' Fishing Association in 1928.

In 1974 Sawyer became connected to Marlborough when he was asked to run the College's summer school fishing course. It was Sawyer who first suggested the construction of the two trout lakes that are here at the College, so that teaching fishing would be easier and more accessible. Sawyer's plan was to excavate the two lakes and then divert the River Kennet through them to fill them up. The water would then reconnect to the river, at the spot now known as 'Sawyer's Pool'.

The idea was proposed in 1975 and work began in 1976. It was opposed vehemently by a biology teacher at the College who said it would destroy the natural habitats for the wildlife on the banks of the Kennet. He would routinely go out at night and move the stakes that marked out the boundaries of the lakes inward, thus making the lakes smaller. If it were not for the persistence of Sawyer the lakes would not have been built.

Sawyer watched the construction of the lakes, first the larger and then the smaller of the lakes, in 1976. The pool on the river that bears his name has all the

attributes of a perfect stretch of fishing. Sadly he passed away just after their completion. He was a heavy smoker which probably led to his death in 1980. He has left the College and the fishing world a lasting legacy. He was awarded an MBE for his services to trout



fishing and during his career his trout flies, such as Sawyer's Pheasant Tail Nymph (*pictured*) and his Killer Bug, gained legendary status among trout fishermen and are still used today.

# Grace Rosina Mary Denman: John Osborne

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*August 4 1912 - February 10 2016*

**Grace Denman**, who died recently at the age of 103, was a very special person. She not only lived to a great age but was remarkable for the sharpness of her mind and her memories and for her unassuming but entirely self-possessed attitude towards her own life and life in general.



She came from a humble background in Essex. When she was a girl, her father died from the effects of illness caught during the 1<sup>st</sup> World War and money was 'tight', but she was clearly able and did well as a scholarship girl at Chelmsford High School, especially at French. Her proficiency in this language led to her working as a telephonist for the Continental Telephone Service, to war work about which she would never divulge details and to work in Paris after the war, before resuming her job at the Post Office.

She retired in 1972 and in the same year married her 'chief', Teddy Denman, a widower and fourteen years older than herself. He brought two distin-

guished adult stepsons into her life, Sir Roy Denman, who played a major part in negotiating Britain's entry into the Common Market, and Eric, who as an orthopaedic consultant in Swindon, persuaded his father and Grace to move from the Home Counties to Marlborough in 1985. Here Grace involved herself in the life of the town and St Mary's - holding a prayer group in her home, running the Mother's Union, secretary to the Luncheon Club, and holding coffee mornings for the Brandt Group. She was a proof-reader for Tower and Town for many years. Her eagle eye never missed a missing comma, and only when she reached 100 she announced that her powers were failing (we hadn't noticed) and that she ought to retire.

She was a person of high standards, great charm and modesty. Clare Napier wrote and published a memoir of Grace which contains fascinating details of Grace's life and fondly reveals her character. I acknowledge Clare's work in composing this tribute. There may still be copies available from Clare (512333).

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# NEWS from the Churches

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As well as the regular Sunday services, there will be:  
a Prayer Service at Christchurch on 10<sup>th</sup> April at 6p.m. led by Rev. Heather Cooper;  
a Civic Service at St George's on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 10am attended by the Marlborough Councillors.

## Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group (MAPAG)

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MAPAG meets at the Friends Meeting House, The Parade, Marlborough at 7.30pm on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April**. Sue Blacklock will be talking about the links between Poverty and Domestic Violence. All welcome to attend the meeting.

## Women's Fellowship: meetings at 2.45pm Christchurch .

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5 <sup>th</sup> April	Revd Heather Cooper
12 <sup>th</sup> April	TBC
19 <sup>th</sup> April	Members' meeting (Royal reminiscences: the Queen's 90th birthday)
26 <sup>th</sup> April	TBC
3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Trevor Durston, The Leprosy Mission.



## Marlborough Churches Together: fraternal meeting

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Please contact Alison Selby if you would like to attend or raise an issue at the meeting on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April**.  
(alison@crossmead.net)



## Sunday Lunch Club

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**Sunday Lunch Club** meets on **10<sup>th</sup> April** starting at noon at Christchurch. All welcome. Please reserve a place through the Christchurch office (513701) by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April.

## The Mustard Seed

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The **Mustard Seed Book Group** meets on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April** at 7.30pm. The book chosen is "Finding Myself in Britain" by Amy Boucher Pye. The book is part memoir (what it has been like moving from the States and living in Britain) alongside reflections and thoughts about faith and identity that are prompted by what was going on in her life. Amy is very honest, she writes with humour, great observation and talks about faith in down-to-earth terms. We hope you will want to read it and join us for the discussion.



# NEWS from the Churches, continued

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## Filling Station

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Filling Station meets on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April with speaker Geoff Naylor, the area representative for Christians Against Poverty. Filling Station meets from 7.30-9.30pm at St Peter's Junior School, Marlborough SN8 1LQ.



## Faith, Fashion And Fig Leaves

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7.30pm on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April** at St. Mary's Church

Do come along for canapes and fizz and to hear Joanna Jepson speak about her book. Tickets £5 from Mustard Seed (Waitrose Car Park) 01672 511611.

## The Heart of Things: Paul Hobbs

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An exhibition of paintings and sculpture by Paul Hobbs in St Mary's Church from April 30<sup>th</sup> to May 5<sup>th</sup>. Contact Janneke on 515970 ([www.arthobbs.com](http://www.arthobbs.com)). See p17.

## Devotion Tuesday night youth club Hangout@TheMead

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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.



## Homegroups

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The Marlborough churches offer opportunities for fellowship and discussion about faith and faith issues in small groups. Details can be found at :-

<http://www.marlboroughanglicanteam.org.uk/homegroups.htm>

<http://christchurchmarlborough.org.uk/mid-week-groups>

**Coffee with God** is a social group which meets on alternate Thursday mornings from 10.30 am in *The Cozy Bean* in Marlborough. "We look at a contemporary issue which may be controversial or challenging and talk about our experiences and how Christian faith may influence our thinking." More details from Mo Hill: [moj.hill@btinternet.com](mailto:moj.hill@btinternet.com) or Helen Stokes: [hcstokes@gmail.com](mailto:hcstokes@gmail.com)

The **Chandos Homegroup** writes "Over the past year, many of us have been involved in Marlborough Street Angels offering a helping hand at Mop Fair; we are keen supporters and organisers of Marlborough Filling Station and hope to offer our services to Christians Against Poverty as that develops in our area. Our meetings are on Wednesdays; sometimes we follow a book or DVD course; sometimes we look at scripture more directly. We are keen to live out our

relationship with Jesus and share the challenges that come with that aim. We always want to give the Spirit space to move in our meetings. Do get in touch if you would like to join us. Helen and Vincent Stokes. [hcstokes@gmail.com](mailto:hcstokes@gmail.com)".

## Future Diary Dates

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**Quiet Day on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May** at St Katherine's Church, Savernake organised by Wiltshire Churches Together. More details from Alison Selby.

**Christian Aid Week 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> May**

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May : Marlborough Churches Together service at Christchurch at 10.30 am. All welcome.



**St Non's Retreat, 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> September.**

The 14<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:barney.rsdl@gmail.com)).

**Do come along for canapes and fizz**

and to hear

**Joanna Jepson**

speak about her book

***Fashion, Faith and Fig Leaves***

7.30pm Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April

St. Mary's Church

Tickets £5 from Mustard Seed (Waitrose Car Park)

01672 511611

*Joanna Jepson was born with a jaw abnormality which meant she was bullied and lost all self-confidence while also negotiating a strict evangelical upbringing. Later, reconstructive facial surgery and a religious meltdown left her unrecognisable and disorientated, triggering a search for identity.*

*Eventually she became ordained and became the first Chaplain to the London College of Fashion which gave her unique opportunities to explore issues of body image and fashion and how to integrate these with faith and feminism.*

*Joanna is an experienced lively speaker and this promises to be a really interesting evening. Hope you're able to join us.*

# Tower and Town staff

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