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# TOWER AND TOWN

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Our Town

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MARCH 2019 50P

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# TOWER<sup>AND</sup>TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

NUMBER 690 MARCH 2019



## Our Town

The picture on the front cover is familiar enough - an image that encapsulates a varied and vibrant community, a place we sometimes take for granted but which at the same time is very much 'our town'.

This month's edition attempts to get beneath the skin of that community through a series of interviews with people who play a leading part in what shapes us as Marlborough. We have insights from the Mayor, from the Headteacher of Marlborough St Mary's, from Bob Holman talking about the business community, Janneke Blokland on the work of MAPAG, and Martin Cook on the work of MADT. I am indebted to them for their time and trouble. I could not possibly do justice to the 'whole' town - perhaps later issues might take up the baton and explore more of what makes us who and what we are - but I hope that I have managed to give a little flavour of where we are and where we might be going.

In addition this issue contains a miscellany of suggestions that might help you to shake off those winter blues; the second part of Barney Rosedale's and Bill Yates' excellent article on Drugs; a reminder from Father John Blacker that March is the month of Lent; and Mike Maclachlan, churchwarden of St Mary's, explains the process of finding a new rector.

Plus loads of fascinating information about what's happening in our community and our churches - lots of opportunities to get involved.

May reading it put a spring in your step - metaphorically if not physically!

**David Du Croz, Editor**

*Front Cover:: Marlborough High Street from the top of St Peter's Church Tower*

# Marlborough Town

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*An interview with the Mayor, Councillor Lisa Farrell*

*What have been the most enjoyable things about your mayoral year?*

Definitely the community events when people come together to celebrate what is great about our town: turning on the Christmas Lights, the many events around Remembrance, and occasions like the tea-party in St Peter's in December which brought together so many who had some connection with that place when it was a church.

*What would you say have been the main achievements of your time as Mayor?*

I love working with the young - they're so important and the future of our town - so the Youth Centre and the newly established Youth Council I feel passionately about. Over £50,000 was raised to refurbish the Youth Centre, and I still work there every Friday evening as a volunteer when we have anything between 30 and 80 young people. We still need to do more with the place and get more equipment, but it's a start to provide the young with a place of their own. And the Youth Council is a way to give the young a voice and involve them in community action.

*A role like yours doesn't come without its problems - what have been some of your biggest frustrations?*

I get really cross about the moaning and negativity - people are all too quick to criticise the Council about not getting things done, but are seldom willing to volunteer to help. Local bureaucracy is sometimes frustratingly slow - I would love to see Wiltshire Council working more together with the Town Council to improve things. The housing situation in the town worries me - not enough affordable property and houses going to out-of-town people - and the closure of the police station seems very short-sighted.

*And what about the challenges and opportunities going forward?*

So much still to do - traffic, parking, housing, schooling and so on. Money plays such a big part in all these decisions, and I don't think that the authorities always make best use of the resources we have for the true benefit of the people of Marlborough. But there are reasons to be optimistic - the Neighbourhood Plan will hopefully start to improve things - and there's far less party politics in the Council and some really good working together to make a difference.

# Marlborough St Mary's Church of England Primary School

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*An interview with the Headteacher, Anne Schwodler*

*How long have you been a Headteacher?*

I was Head of the Infants' School, and then I became Head of Marlborough St Mary's when it combined with St Peter's School on this new site. So, about ten years in total.

*Managing that move and amalgamation must have provided a few challenges?*

We certainly had to fight hard to get the new school building that we wanted against what was being offered initially, but we are thrilled with the resulting design. Managing the two schools on a split site during the building phase created a few issues, and then we had to manage the actual physical move and create the new school - the previous St Mary's and St Peter's were very different, so it was important to start afresh from scratch.

*What have been some of the main successes in your first eighteen months in the new school?*

We have had a big push to develop the 'soft' side of the curriculum - the creative arts and the sports. Today for example our 50-strong choir is heading off to the O2 Arena in London to take part in the Young Voices concert. Over half the KS2 pupils (*7- to 11-year-olds*) now participate in the after-school sports clubs which we have developed with in-house expertise on the teaching staff. We also had an excellent art exhibition last summer showcasing the children's work.

*What are some of the challenges in the future?*

We will be due an OFSTED inspection fairly soon and it would be lovely to achieve 'outstanding'. We have an amazing teaching staff - dedicated and skilful - and we are beginning to see improvements across the board. Reading results for example are much better, and this year our focus is on Maths. We have an excellent resource base for children with special needs, and at the same time we are driving the middle and high-achievers to get better than average results.

*And what of the opportunities?*

We have had wonderful support from the local community and it would be lovely to build on that, which we are already doing with local schools, with the Church and through visiting the elderly. There's no room for complacency but we are very excited about what the future holds for the school.

# Marlborough Business Community

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*An interview with Bob Holman, owner of The Food Gallery*

*Is there any one organisation which represents the Marlborough Business Community?*

Not really. Some years ago I set up a Retailers' Association, a lobby organisation to represent the views of the shops in town, but that no longer exists. There is the Marlborough Area Development Trust (*see the interview with Martin Cook on page 8*) but that does something a bit different. The Marlborough Area Board gives grants, and works with local people to find solutions to local issues, and then there's the local Chamber of Commerce, but its focus is more towards the professions. Most of my involvement now revolves around networking and sharing best practice.

*What have been the main concerns of local businesses?*

Rents and rates must be at the top of the list, and both are very high. Marlborough is a popular destination and commercial property commands a high value. A lot of High Street property is owned by absentee landlords or pension funds. It's very difficult for a tenant to have a close working relationship with a landlord to run and grow the business - the landlords themselves are running businesses and know that eventually a tenant will come along who will pay the high rent.

Rates tend to follow rents and are another huge cost for the retailer. The whole system of business rates is pretty archaic and needs reforming. Rates are determined by such things as the size of shop frontage and in Marlborough whether or not you are on the north 'sunny side' of the street. High rents and high rates make life on the High Street very tough.

*What are the main opportunities and challenges for the town?*

Retailers need to be more innovative to stay alive. Chains can subsidise the rates for their businesses in Marlborough, but independents do not have that sort of clout, so they need to reinvent themselves. In terms of planning the Council has an overall plan but little control over detail, so it is important if we wish to retain the character of the High Street that the independent businesses survive.

Hopefully Visit Wiltshire's *Great West Way* might help to develop the local economy, but there's not much else happening that's going to make a substantial difference. Marlborough is an experience that needs to be promoted as such - retailers have to be proactive.

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



# Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group

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*An interview with one of the trustees, the Revd Dr Janneke Blokland.*

*So, what is MAPAG and how did it come about?*

MAPAG started about 6 years ago and developed largely out of the Food Bank. It is non-political and not church-based, though it has close links with some of the churches. It came about partly because it was felt that there was a need to recognise that, though largely hidden, poverty exists in Marlborough.

*What does it actually do?*

A number of related things, but much of its work is to do with identifying problems, making an inventory of what needs to be done and then bringing the right people together to respond to those needs. It works with the homeless and supports the work of the Food Bank. It also works with and in schools, and sponsors children for the Leisure Centre's Camp Activate, an activity programme run during the school holidays.

*What have been some of the major issues MAPAG has tried to deal with?*

Food poverty and homelessness are the main problems, but also the lack of support services. There is no longer a Citizens Advice Bureau in the town; the nearest jobcentre is in Devizes; there is no Youth Worker and the Children's Centre has closed. It's very difficult for those in need to get the necessary support. One of the things MAPAG is trying to do is to centralise information about the full nature and extent of poverty and bring people together to tackle the problems.

*What have been some of its main achievements?*

I think just raising awareness about poverty in Marlborough has been one of the most important things, and building up good relations with families in need. We have managed to raise money - funding comes from individuals and from money raised by Waitrose, Tesco and others - for a Summer Trip for families. This last summer we took 46 children and parents to the Cotswold Wildlife Park, for some of whom this would be their only day out for the whole of the holidays.

*And what are the opportunities and challenges facing MAPAG?*

Part of the problem is that poverty in Marlborough is fairly hidden, and because it is not as overtly dire as elsewhere it stays below the radar of the relevant authorities. We also need to look into the problem of loneliness and the elderly, as well as things like fuel poverty. Continuing to build up a body of information, and finding the funds and people to deliver what is needed are our main immediate concerns.

# Marlborough Area Development Trust

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*An interview with the Chairman, Martin Cook*

*So, what exactly is the Trust and how did it come about?*

Marlborough Area Development Trust was formed in 2000, as ‘a non-profit-making voluntary organisation working in, with and for the community’. Kennet District Council wanted to support community groups financially and to facilitate projects. There weren’t many charity-type models to choose from, so we plumped for the Development Trust concept with a formal constitution and a board of directors.

*And what does it do?*

There are two kinds of project MADT facilitates. The first are those that are brought to us by other groups or individuals in the community who have a great idea but need help to make it happen - we have worked in partnership with Action for the River Kennet (ARK) for example. The second type of project is the home-grown variety that comes from within the board or membership of MADT. Examples from the past include setting up an online business directory when the TIC was closed down and introducing the popular Free WiFi service for Marlborough High Street.

*What are the sort of things that you are currently working on?*

Our main focus currently is developing support for ‘Digital Making’ (see separate web site at [www.makerspace.marlborougharea.org](http://www.makerspace.marlborougharea.org)). We are entering an age driven by a range of new technologies. Equipping both adults and young people for this changing society and world of work is therefore becoming ever more vital, especially in the context of essential digital skills. We have two key strands of activity: developing support and resources to encourage the combination of new digital technologies with craft and engineering expertise - with a long-term aim to develop a local ‘Makerspace’ as a key resource; providing Digital Making education support for both adults and under-18’s, much of which is happening in collaboration with youngsters and staff at St John’s.

By way of example, this work has included running meetings of a Marlborough Maker Group where interested individuals can meet and share their digital making ideas, and developing and selling online low-cost Digital Making Kits.

*And what of the future?*

An economically thriving and socially cohesive community of the future will need to accept and embrace the rise of new technologies. This focus of our current activity hopes to raise the profile of digital making and get more people involved.

# St Mary's Church The search for our new rector

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*Churchwarden Mike Maclachlan explains the process*

Some sixteen years ago we were looking for a new rector to oversee our Marlborough Anglican Team (St Mary's in the town, St George's Preshute in Manton and St John the Baptist in Minal). Andrew Studdert-Kennedy was appointed and the family became a Marlborough fixture right up to the end of last year. Many of us witnessed Andrew's 'institution and induction' in November as Team Rector and Vicar of St Andrew's, Uxbridge. But Marlborough was where deep friendships were forged, where Jamie, Phoebe, Alice and Megan grew up while Andrew and Annie cared for old and young alike in our congregations.

Since then we have been in an 'interregnum', a period for taking stock, having a think about the kind of person we need to take us on and generally getting used to life without our rector. It's amazing how our congregations and churches have stepped up and are pulling together: it's proving to be a time of growth, fending for ourselves with the help of retired clergy and the chaplaincy at Marlborough College.

We have found that the Church of England's process for finding clergy is lengthy. There is much consultation within the hierarchy, meetings to be held and a job description ('Profile') to be prepared. Then there's advertisement, followed by a month during which potential applicants can mull over what's on offer. Applications received by the deadline are subjected to a short-listing and, finally, the selected candidates interviewed. We know because we went through that process in the autumn – although we sadly didn't feel able to appoint anyone.

In the hope that we are older and wiser, we are revising our Profile to reflect a much more attractive, upbeat proposition with more input from our various Marlborough communities. Our plan is to re-advertise at the end of February and interview at the beginning of May, with the new Bishop of Ramsbury, Andrew Rumsey, and Archdeacon of Wiltshire, Sue Groom, leading our panel. Once the appointment is made one could expect a minimum three month notice period to the appointee's existing parish before the move to Marlborough – probably taking us up to September.

We are praying that we can spot the person God is calling out as Rector for Marlborough ... meantime we hang on in there!

## **Christian Aid**

**Special invitation** to hear from **Joanna Tom-Kargbo** from Sierra Leone.

Sunday 17 March 11am: Service and lunch: St John the Baptist Pewsey, Church Street, Pewsey SN9 5DL. [www.christianaid.org.uk/events/delivering-hope-joanna-tom-kargbo-visits-south-west](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/events/delivering-hope-joanna-tom-kargbo-visits-south-west)

# Drugs: Doing Less Harm Part 2

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*Dr. Barney Rosedale and Bill Yates (ex-Oxfam), both Marlborough Quakers, were stirred into advocacy for Drug policy reform by other Quakers who visited Portugal to look into innovative drugs policies. Tony and Vóirrey Faragher found that Portugal's decriminalisation of drug use in 2001 is working. Drugs-related illness and deaths have fallen. Less people are in prison for drugs-related offences. The country is now inching towards further reforms that will ultimately bring all drugs into a legally regulated regime – and incidentally, take supply out of the hands of criminals.*

*In the last issue of T&T they looked at the international scale and consequences of the 'War on Drugs'. In this second article their focus is more particularly on the UK and on alternative policy options.*

## **Tobacco and Alcohol**

In Britain tobacco and alcohol are both legal. And it is because they are legal that regulation and more effective education can be put to work. A good example is the remarkable change in social habits and behaviours that has been achieved in a relatively short time by the bans on smoking in public spaces and in workplaces. Both of these drugs are addictive to different, but significant degrees and they are far more lethal than most of the illegal drugs that we moralise about. Tobacco-related disease still kills 120,000 people a year and alcohol kills 7,300. We must regard action on both of them as 'work in progress'. Perhaps we can also learn lessons that might be relevant to new policies on what are currently illegal drugs. We can also learn from the experience of an increasing number of countries and American states that are well ahead of us in reforming their drugs laws: not just Uruguay and Portugal, but Switzerland, Canada and just now, New Zealand. Perhaps we can also begin work on the long haul through the UN to lift the entire drugs supply chain out of criminal hands.

**Drug-related crime** is an increasingly serious and urgent issue in Britain. Over the past year we have seen the surge in knife murders that are part of turf wars between rival drugs gangs. We have learned a new term: 'County Lines', that describes an illegal drugs supply system. We have heard authoritative statements by recently retired Chief Constables and by elected Police and Crime Commissioners calling for drugs policy reform. Drugs-related trials are also a burden on the overstretched judiciary. A number of our prisons are becoming ungovernable in large part because of drugs in gaols. In short our entire criminal justice system is burdened by our dysfunctional drugs policy. It is time to consider taking the entire drugs issue out of the criminal justice system and putting it in the health and medical system where it properly belongs.

## ***Regulation and Enforcement***

There are many dangers within our society, and one of the main duties of government is to protect the public. We gratefully accept the regulation which they apply, with varying degrees of competence and success, to a wide area of our lives, to fire risks of mattresses and tower blocks, to vehicles and how they are driven, to our food and our pharmaceutical drugs. If we were to abandon the idea of a 'drug-free' world, legalise these drugs and control them by detailed legal regulation, stage by stage we could take the production and supply out of the hands of criminals and into the control of medical staff.

Serious drugs would be medically prescribed with registration of addicts, provision of free or subsidised pure drug and needles, supervised by trained staff, with advice on toxicity and reduction. Others would be available as pharmacy sales, restricted amounts, age restrictions, consistent dosage and full information but no advertising or branding. Licenced premises or membership clubs could supply drugs like cannabis with all the above restrictions, control of the strengths available and consumption on the premises. Some drugs might be available as licenced sales as we now buy tobacco or alcohol, but without advertising. All drugs would be taxed and this together with reduced costs to police, courts, hospitals and prisons, would, from the experience of places like Portugal, Switzerland and some USA states, more than pay for the transition to legal regulation and its enforcement.

## ***Public Opinion***

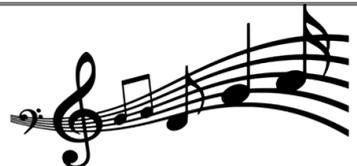
So why has our supposedly rational, humane and liberal government not abandoned the 'War on Drugs'? It is partly an obsession with Brexit, but more a state of public opinion, encouraged by some particular newspapers, which makes politicians think that if they move in this direction they will be thought to be 'soft on drugs' and unelectable. We need to spread the word and make it clear to our representatives that we want a more humane and sensible approach to this problem.

### **MARLBOROUGH CHORAL SOCIETY SPRING CONCERT**

**MARCH 30, 7:30 PM, ST. MARY'S CHURCH**

Mozart 'Solemn Vespers'

John Rutter 'Feel the Spirit' with guest soloists.



**Marlborough Choral Society**

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

# Letter from Nick Maurice

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The article 'Drugs: Doing Less Harm' (part one) by Barney Rosedale and Bill Yates (Tower and Town February edition) was welcome and timely, as it pointed out the cost to humanity in crime and lives.

The controlled legalisation of all drugs would have a major impact on death rates, crime, prison populations, with the implied cost at £40,000 per year per prisoner to all of us tax payers, and morbidity, as has already been shown in such countries as Portugal.

We, most of us, take mood altering substances whether alcohol or nicotine or cannabis, crack cocaine or heroin. What can be the rationale for making some of them legal and appropriately controlled within the public health arena and others illegal and being very badly controlled within the criminal justice system with such devastating consequences? In 2015 there were 3674 deaths from drug overdose in UK, the highest rate per head of population in Europe.

Having had four young patients die from drug overdose in our small market town in the 1980s and 90s, I am convinced that all of them would be alive today if they had had proper access to their drugs and support within the NHS for their addiction, rather than having to indulge in criminal behaviour to purchase their drugs and constantly having to avoid the law for the possession of the same.

We should all bring pressure to bear on our politicians to legalise drugs – we will be saving lives, drastically reducing prison populations and making our world a safer place in which to live.

**Nick Maurice**



**Kennet & Avon**  
MEDICAL PARTNERSHIP

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

**Afternoon Tea and 'Get Online' Event  
Thursday 7 March, 2.00 – 4.00 pm, Marlborough Surgery**

Come and join us at Marlborough Surgery to meet our Care Coordinator and have a chat with Alzheimer's Support and Parkinson's UK over a cup of tea and some cake.

You will also have a chance to meet members of our PPG, who will be on hand to help patients make the most of our online services such as booking appointments and ordering repeat medication. Our recent PPG survey has shown us that patients find accessing our online services challenging, so this is an opportunity for patients to get some additional guidance and support.

To access online services, please bring along some photographic ID and the Practice Team will be able to issue you with a password to access online services on the day.

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Thriving Through Venture (TTV) was established in 2018 in recognition of many of our young people struggling with wellbeing and confidence as they approach their end of school. TTV brings together students from different schools and backgrounds



**Marlborough Concert Orchestra**

**Saturday 23rd March at 7.30 pm  
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**Conductor Roselise Gentile**

**Beethoven**

**Symphony No 5**

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Tickets £10 adults £2 students from Sound Knowledge, Hughenden Yard or on the door  
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# What's On

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## Regular events

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### **Every Monday**

7.30pm: Christchurch. Marlborough Choral Society.

7.45-9pm: Bell-ringing practice at St George's, Preshute.

### **Every Tuesday**

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

7.30-9pm: Bell-ringing practice at St Mary's, Marlborough.

### **Every Wednesday**

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

12.30pm: St George's, Preshute Teddy Prayers & Picnic. A special service for U5s & carers, followed by a picnic lunch. (*1st 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 (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.*)

2pm: Mildenhall Village Hall. Marlborough Floral Club. £30 a year membership. £5 guest. 520129. (*1st Thursday*).

7-8.30pm: Wesley Hall, Oxford St. Hangout & Devotion. Youth Club.

### **Every Friday**

10-12 noon: Christchurch Crush Hall. Food bank.

### **Every 2nd Saturday**

10-12 noon: Library. Marlborough Association. Drop-in advice.

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## March calendar

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### **4th (Monday)**

2pm Kennet Valley Hall. Marlborough Association. Talk by Karen Nicol: '24 Hour Stitches'.

7.30pm St Mary's Church, Oxford St. Salisbury Cathedral Choir. £11. White Horse Bookshop. In aid of charity.

### **6th (Wednesday)**

10am-12.30pm The Merchant. Age of Romanticism (1790-1830). Talk by Hart: 'Dangerous Friendship. The Age of Romanticism'. £12 members, £15 non-members. Booking: 511491.

7.30pm Wesley Hall, Oxford St. Supper. New members and guests welcome.

### **13th (Wednesday)**

12.30pm 40 St Martins. Widowed & Single. 514030.

7.45pm Wesley Hall, Oxford St. Talk by Allan Wells: 'Gardening for All'.

### **16th (Saturday)**

7.30pm Marlborough College. Society. Brahms Requiem and other works. Tickets White Horse Bookshop. Book at door or from [www.swindonchamber.org](http://www.swindonchamber.org)

### **17th (Sunday)**

8am The Common. Car Boot Sale. Ambulance.

11am: St John the Baptist, Preshute. Christian Aid talk: Joanna Torrance. See page 9.

7.30 St Peter's Church. Brilliant. Ryan Drucker. £10 (£8 members). Sound Knowledge, White Horse Bookshop.

Marlborough & District Dyslexia  
Society. Help line: 07729 452143

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Marlborough Embroiderers. Talk  
'The Art of Embroidery'.

Marlborough St George. Concert:  
7.30pm (u16's free) from White  
Church roof repairs.

Marlborough House. Study Series: The  
Age of Romanticism (1790-1830). 1st in series: Michael  
Evans: 'English Painting and Nature  
in the Age of Romanticism and  
Nationalism and  
Nature'. £15 non members. Advance  
booking: 511491.

Marlborough Street. WI. AGM and Pot Luck  
Dinner. Guests welcome.

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Marlborough Women's Friendship Group Lunch.

Marlborough Street. Gardening Association.  
'Gardening for Bees'.

Marlborough Chapel. Swindon Choral  
Society. Dvořák Te Deum.

Marlborough College. Sound Knowledge, on the  
door. Marlborough.org.uk. See page 17.

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Marlborough Sale in aid of Wiltshire Air

Marlborough Pewsey, Service and lunch.  
Marlborough from Sierra Leone.

Marlborough Young Pianist Recital:  
(Marlborough of St Peter's Trust). from  
Marlborough Bookshop or on the door.

### **18th (Monday)**

11am Ellendune Community Centre, Wroughton. Lecture  
by Andrew Spira: 'The Art & Architecture of St Petersburg'.  
Guests welcome £7. Membership Secretary: 01793 840790.  
7.30pm Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. National Trust  
Association meeting. Talk by Simon Brooks: 'Avebury  
Manor Garden'. £3, non members £4.

### **19th (Tuesday)**

6pm St Peter's Church. St Peter's Trust AGM. Members  
only. Join at [www.stpetersmarlborough.com](http://www.stpetersmarlborough.com).

### **20th (Wednesday)**

10am-12.30pm The Merchant's House. Study Series: The  
Age of Romanticism (1790-1830). 2nd in series: David  
Evans: 'English Painting and Nature In the Age of  
Romanticism'. £12 members, £15 non members. Advance  
booking: 511491.

### **21st (Thursday)**

7.30pm St Peter's Church. Marlborough History Society.  
Talk by Chris Danziger: 'Death in Ekaterinburg –  
Assassination or Execution?'. Non-members £5.

### **23rd (Saturday)**

7.30pm St Mary's Church. Marlborough Concert  
Orchestra's Spring Concert. £10, £2 students. See page 13

### **23rd to 30th (Saturday to Saturday)**

10am-4.30pm (Sunday 3pm) St Peter's Church  
Marlborough. Art Exhibition: the annual spring exhibition by  
the Wiltshire Artists. Free entry

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### **24th (Sunday)**

7.30pm Kennet Valley Hall. Film: 'First Man' (12A). £6.

### **26th (Tuesday)**

7.30pm Bouverie Hall, Pewsey. The Arts Society Pewsey  
Vale. Lecture by Brian Stater 'Photography as Fine Art'.  
Visitors welcome. £7 Membership Secretary: 07775  
683163.

### **29th (Friday)**

Marlborough College. End of Lent Term.

### **30th (Saturday)**

7.30pm St Mary's Church. Marlborough Choral Society  
Spring Concert. See page 11.

# Marlborough Churches Together

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## Usual Sunday Service times

### **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

**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

---

## **Fr John Blacker**

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*Parish Priest, St Thomas More RC Church*

## **The Revd Dr Janneke Blokland**

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*Assistant Chaplain, Marlborough College*

## **The Revd Heather Cooper**

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*Minister, Christchurch Methodist*

## **The Revd Dr David Maurice**

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*Associate Minister, Marlborough Anglican Team*

## **The Revd Tim Novis**

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*Senior Chaplain, Marlborough College*

## **Rachel Rosedale**

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---

## **Andrew Trowbridge**

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*Anglican Team Office, Church Cottage, Silverless Street, SN8 1JQ*

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## **FROM THE REGISTERS**

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### **Baptism - we welcome**

20 January Sonnie William Meechan and Brody James Meechan at St Mary's

3 February Tobias Christopher Woodward at St Mary's

### **Departed - we pray for the families of**

2 January Robert Browning (81) of Avebury Trusloe  
*St Mary's and Marlborough Cemetery*

6 January Diana Nina Norris Ladhams (78) of Clarendon Court, Marlborough  
*St Mary's*

9 January Sian Oughton (56) of Bishopdale Close, Swindon  
*Kingsdown Crematorium*

11 January Paul Woodley Scoble (85) of West Road, Barton Stacey, Winchester  
*St John the Baptist and Kingsdown Crematorium*

### **An Apology**

Last month we unfortunately mis-spelt the name of William Thomas Allen. Our sincere apology to Mrs Allen and their family.

*Swindon  
Choral  
Society*

## **SWINDON CHORAL SOCIETY**

**Marlborough College Chapel 16 March 7.30**

**BRAHMS REQUIEM & DVOŘÁK TE DEUM**

Tickets White Horse Bookshop, Sound Knowledge,  
on the door or from [www.swindonchoral.org.uk](http://www.swindonchoral.org.uk)

# Clergy Letter Father Blacker

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Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 6th March. The Lent-Easter cycle each year urges us to a deeper exploration of the Easter mystery which is at the heart of the Christian faith. As a preparation for Easter, Lent has its origin in the public act of receiving ashes as a reminder to us of exercising our faithfulness to God's love and also to admit the reality of our struggle to keep the commandments of God's love for us.

The tradition of ashes on Ash Wednesday shows a sincere attempt to re-turn to God in recognising our utter dependence on God.

During Lent we can reflect upon the very basic truths of the Christian faith that draws His Son Jesus to suffer, to die and to rise again for us. And isn't life like that for all of us? Isn't it true that we all from time to time come head on with suffering, dying, with bereavement? How important it is that even more so in the special time of Lent that we should find ways of giving loving service and support to one another, as we each wait and search for Resurrection in our own and each other's lives in the name of Jesus Christ our Risen Lord.

It is good for us to spend the 40 days of Lent seeking the chance to pray, to find a quiet place, to set some time aside, to be in the presence of God. Don't bother too much about what you are going to say to God: simply go into His presence and be still and listen to whatever He wants to put into your heart and mind.



Book & Coffeeshop

Diane and Rob Parsons, founders of Care for the Family which provides parenting, relationship and bereavement support through events, resources, courses, training and volunteer networks, will be speaking at **St Mary's Church on Thursday 7th March at 7.30pm.**

Diane will be talking about her new book *You, Me and Coffee* in which she shares stories, thoughts, memories as a child, wife, mother and friend, and from thirty years of working with Care for the Family.

Come and relax with a coffee, tiffin and listen to stories which encourage faith and hope.

Further information from Mustard Seed 511611  
[mustardseedmarlborough@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mustardseedmarlborough@yahoo.co.uk)

# March Miscellany

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## Debby Guest recommends a good read

Some authors fly under the radar, respected by critics but somehow never becoming Big Literary Names. Tessa Hadley is one such (though she has appeared at Marlborough LitFest, so we know about her). In *Late in the Day* she employs all her technical skill and empathy, moving between different viewpoints in past and present to explore the intricacies of a group relationship. Two couples and their children, closely linked for all of their adult lives, are left free-floating when Zach, the linchpin of the group, the universally loved, the one no-one falls out with or resents, dies suddenly and unexpectedly. The loss highlights the fault lines in the network, and when the square is broken the structure cannot stand. Hadley's characters are completely realistic and relatable, grieving, shocked, exasperating, struggling. This immensely readable novel carries reader and characters through the upheaval and mess with the author's characteristic eye for detail and beautifully crafted writing.

## Peter Noble recommends a good walk

### *A Stroll on the Downs*

This 3 miler has no steep hills or stiles and gives lovely views.

Ecological start: Ogbourne St Andrew bus stop.

1. Walk past the Silks on the Downs and turn left towards Ogbourne St Andrew.
2. Where the village road swings right, go straight on along the narrower road, pass a grass triangle to your left and ascend the farm track. Trees on your left, fields on your right.
3. After a kilometre pleasantly uphill the track swings hard left at a large field ahead where there is a choice: a) follow the main track which, in some 300m turns sharp right following the perimeter of the field to its far corner and a convenient bench by a small copse, or b) follow the less used track ahead to circuit the same field anticlockwise and end up at the same convenient bench. The track ends at the first corner but keep going.
4. After relaxing and admiring the views, put the bench and copse to your back and head directly towards (but not through) a field gate in a white fence, and follow the good track leftwards. Where the fence leaves the track look left to high dense beech hedge that in fact surrounds a small cemetery.
5. From the cemetery (if you bothered to visit it) return to the track, turn left and follow it down to the road at Ogbourne Maisey.
6. Go straight ahead towards the main road but at a white metal fence on your

# March Miscellany continued

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left go through the kissing gate (and enjoy its tradition).

7. Cross two fields to a path between high privet hedges. This takes you back to the grass triangle you passed near the start.
8. Follow the road back to the Silks on the Downs where you might enjoy refreshment while awaiting your bus.

*Peter's excellent maps of Savernake Forest and West Woods are available for purchase in St Peter's Church - perfect guides for any number of springtime walks.*

## David Du Croz recommends a good meal

Nothing nicer than a hearty meal of fishcakes, with cheese sauce and peas, so here is my version of a fishcake recipe:-

### for the fish content

50% white fish (cod or haddock); 25% smoked fish (undyed); 25% salmon/trout.

### for extra taste

1 jar of anchovies - I like to use the whole jar - you could use less, but they do give a lovely fishy saltiness to the fishcakes.

1 whole bunch of parsley - discard the stalks and chop - again I like to use the whole bunch. Or try another herb such as dill, or a mixture of dill and parsley.

### for the binding agent

Mashed potato made with lots of butter and pepper - ratio of 1:2 potato to fish (no salt because of the anchovies, and no milk or cream as you do not want your mash too wet)

Method:

1. Poach the fish in milk. Put all the fish together in a big pan, cover with milk and bring to the simmer gently; once simmering remove from heat and let the fish stand for 5 minutes.
2. While the fish is cooking put the chopped parsley in a big bowl; chop the anchovies into small pieces and add to the bowl; then add the mashed potato and stir everything together.
3. When the fish is cooked, drain in a colander and remove any skin and bone; flake the fish into the big bowl with all the other ingredients and combine thoroughly.
4. Beat a couple of eggs in one bowl, and make enough breadcrumbs for another bowl.
5. When the mixture is cool, shape the fishcakes; dip each fishcake in the beaten egg and then in the breadcrumbs covering both sides. You can then freeze

# March Miscellany continued

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them in whatever quantities suits you best; it is helpful to put a piece of greaseproof paper between fishcakes you are freezing in the same batch.

6. When cooking, defrost fully and fry both sides first in butter until nicely browned before popping them in the oven for 15 minutes at 160 C to heat through fully. Serve with cheese sauce and peas.

## Gabriella Venus reviews a good exhibition

*London Italy Norfolk by John Virtue was at the White Horse Gallery in February*

I heard someone recently say, ‘art is subjective’. Well, yes, we all know what we like and don’t like. At least, we think we do. But, more often than not, it is the artwork that is most commonly passed off as ‘slap-dash’ or ‘careless’ that provokes the biggest response in people. I think John Virtue’s work has done just this. People have reacted strongly.

To understand these bold, dense monochrome landscape paintings, you have to spend time with them. Whether you like them or not, it cannot be claimed that John Virtue has skimmed on time, expression, concept, meaning or detail.

This exhibition, titled *London Italy Norfolk*, is a collection of work inspired by the artist’s time in these places. Working directly onto canvas with white acrylic paint, black ink and shellac, these abstract expressions of cityscapes, coastlines and buildings are, to me, engulfing. They pull you in, and you immediately feel part of them. This is particularly true with the London paintings – instantly you are hit with the smokiness of the city, the shadowy outlines of familiar landmarks and an overall sense of smouldering crowdedness. Virtue finds colour a distraction. He produces work in black and white because it focuses the mind, making the viewer concentrate on the marks made by the brushstrokes.

His monoprints are equally interesting. Virtue paints directly onto glass before pressing onto paper. Through this process, the artist has no way of telling how the print will come out, therefore each print turns out slightly differently.

Virtue’s sketches of buildings in Italy are glorious. It is wonderful to see these drawings up close and follow the lines of the pencil, paying particular attention to the shading and different areas on the paper where more pressure has been applied to the pencil to create different thicknesses.

The inspirations behind John Virtue’s work are reminiscent of the great landscape painters, Turner and Constable. Every mark has a purpose. Every line has a reason.

# March Miscellany continued

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## David Du Croz recommends a good visit

I came across **Christchurch** in Cadley on the edge of Savernake Forest when I was researching the burial places of Marlborough men who had died in the First World War. Sadly it is now redundant, deconsecrated and a private home so you can no longer visit inside the building, but it is possible to visit the graveyard which surrounds the church. The church itself was built in 1851 but in the 14th/15th century style, and is constructed from flint with limestone bandings and dressings with a slate roof. Two of those killed in the war died in November 1914, and the third died in March 1917 from meningitis. You can identify their graves easily as they have the standard CWGC headstones.

A bit deeper into the forest you come across **St Katharine's Church**, probably much better known to our readers. This is a real gem of a place and well worth a visit if you have never been. It was consecrated in 1861, and its main features are the use of warm Bath stone, the graceful vaulting and arches, the stone carving inside and out, the lovely use of marble and the glowing colours of the Minton tiles. It suffered serious damage in the ammunition dump explosion in the summer of 1945, but thankfully has been fully restored. It is almost always open to visitors from around 9am to about 4pm, and services are held every Sunday (please see the church website for times and details).

And just off the eastern end of the forest is **St Martin's Chapel** in Chisbury. Dating from the 13th century, this delightful chapel was originally constructed by the lord of Chisbury Manor not only to assert his high social status but also to enable the household of the manor, as well as local people, to attend services and pay their taxes without having to travel to the parish church at Great Bedwyn.

The building ceased to be used as a consecrated chapel in 1547 at the time of the Reformation, and has been used as a barn for the past three centuries. The building is a pretty thatched and flint-walled construction, whose original function is still clearly visible today. The chapel is positioned on the edge of the earthwork defences of a much earlier Iron Age hillfort, known as Chisbury Camp.

### **'Brilliant Young Pianist in St Peter's Church'**

## **Ryan Drucker**

**Sunday 17 March, 7.30 pm**

Ryan first performed in the Wigmore Hall at the age of sixteen. He graduated from the Royal Northern College of Music with the highest marks in an undergraduate recital.

**Mozart, Chopin, Rachmaninov and Bernstein**

Tickets at £10 are available from the White Horse Bookshop and Sound Knowledge



**Christchurch in Cadley**



**St Katherine's in Savernake**



**St Martin's Chapel in Chisbury**

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# Family News compiled by Jessy Pomfret

---

Hello to all Tower and Town readers. I am delighted to have this opportunity to contribute to the magazine by compiling the family news.

Jay, Michaela and Emma are sorry to inform friends and acquaintances that their mother and grandmother, **Valerie Margaret Fuller**, sadly passed away quietly in Savernake Hospital on the 25th December aged 94. Valerie, together with her parents and sister, had moved from London to Marlborough during World War II, when their house had been bombed. They already knew Marlborough well, having spent holidays there. Valerie met her husband John after the war, when he was part of the Army forces removing ammunition from Savernake Forest and she worked as a secretary to one of the officers in charge. Apart from army postings abroad, the couple remained in Marlborough, so Valerie lived in the town for well over 75 years. Donations in remembrance of Valerie can be made to The Sailors' Society or The Blue Cross. We send out deepest sympathy to Valerie's family.

**Barbara Jones**, née Linney, was given a Lifetime Achievement Award from Wiltshire Lawn Tennis Association for services to Marlborough Tennis Club. Through her tireless support of the committee and tennis in the community she has helped the club develop from 50 to over 200 members. She comes from an old Marlborough family. Longstanding residents will remember Dunford's Confectioner and Tobacconist at 120 High St. where the Blue Cross animal charity shop is. Barbara's mother was a Dunford. The family came to Marlborough in 1749 and were boot makers and repairers. The tennis club reflects, "From making coffee at social functions, to managing the finance and ferrying juniors around and keeping social tennis alive, our club would not have grown and transitioned to its new facilities so successfully without her smiling, positive energy." What an achievement! We wish her many more happy tennis years.

Christine Hodder writes: **Barbara Stiles** and late husband, Ken, moved from Surrey to River Park in 2001. As a couple they made many friends and Barbara soon took on the role of organising the flower rota at St George's Church and the teas at U3A meetings, as well as working in Pewsey Volunteer Tea Rooms. Barbara was well known for her sense of fun and determination and is greatly missed by the Community, but particularly by her three children and five grandchildren. Following a short illness, Barbara passed away at home on 10 October 2018, with her children beside her. She was one month short of her 96th Birthday!

And finally, congratulations to **Sheila Hanson** who has another grandson! Jack William, younger brother to Harry, and cousin to Sam and Lyra is the son of Tom and Flo (née Everson).

# News from the Churches

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## Marlborough Churches Together



The AGM was held on 30th January and the annual report is on the MCT website. Father John Blacker was elected chair for 2019. The next Fraternal meets at 12.45 on Monday 4th March in Friends Meeting House. The meeting is open to all.

## MAPAG

Meets at the Friends Meeting House, The Parade, at 7.30pm on Monday 4th March. All are welcome.

## Women's Fellowship in March: 2.45pm in Christchurch.



- 5th Tea and chat
- 12th Shirley Mackintosh.
- 19th Members meeting.
- 26th Rev. Heather Cooper.

## **God of the Gaps: A Lenten Journey with St Mark's Gospel**



Starting on 13th March, Marlborough Churches Together will be hosting a series of five Lent talks given by the Revd Dr Colin Heber-Percy, priest and screenwriter. The evenings will be in **Christchurch** (New Road), starting at 7.30pm. Entry is free and there will be an opportunity for donations for the refreshments.

In this year's Lent talks, Colin will explore with us the idea of a God who inhabits and shares the gaps, the Lent times, the waiting. As a guide for our exploration, we will take St Mark's Gospel with us; a Gospel full of gaps, interruptions and questions.

The themes for the Wednesday evenings are as follows:

- 13 March *Wilderness*: gaps in our understanding, going into the unknown.
- 20 March *Let the little children come to me*: gaps in our hearts, in relationships.
- 27 March *Sheep without a shepherd*: gaps on our maps.
- 3 April *And the curtain of the temple was torn in two*: gaps in our lives, grief and loss.
- 10 April *Remain here and keep awake*: gaps in time, in waiting.

## **Women World Day of Prayer**

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Is on Friday 1st March and there will be a service in the Pewsey Methodist Church Hall at 2.00pm.

## **Ash Wednesday** 6th March

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

## **Devotion Youth Project**

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Volunteers are still needed to help run the youth club which meets on Thursdays from 7 -8.30 in the Wesley Hall. Please contact Janneke: Jblokland@gmail.com for more information.

## **Messy Church**

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Sunday 10th March 4-6 pm at St Mary's, Marlborough.

Please join us for a time of fun, food, worship and many activities suitable for all ages. All are welcome but under 8s must bring a parent, grandparent or carer with them. More information from Caroline (cphilps2@gmail.com).

## **Sunday Lunch Club**

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Meets on 17th March in the Wesley Hall. To book a place please ring the church office 513701 by 15th. Cost £7.50.

## **Mothering Sunday** 31st March

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Mothering Sunday Services, suitable for all ages, take place at:

9.30am at St John the Baptist, Minal

10.00am at St Mary's, Marlborough and St George's, Preshute

Gifts of flowers will be available at these services.

The 5.30pm Service on 31st March at St Mary's will observe the 4th Sunday of Lent.

## **Marlborough Anglican Team Rector Update**

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We are re-advertising for a new Team Rector during March. The interviews are scheduled to take place after Easter. See page 9.

Please hold the prospective applicants and the interview team in your prayers.

## **A New Neighbour**

---

We welcome Andrew Rumsey, the new Bishop of Ramsbury, who has come to live in Marlborough with his family. We hope they will all be happy here with us.

# Tower and Town staff

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<i>News from the Churches</i>	Alison Selby	church.news@towerandtown.org.uk Crossmead, Kingsbury St, SN8 1HU	511128
<i>Family News</i>	Jessy Pomfret	family.news@towerandtown.org.uk	

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**Contributions and comments** from readers are welcome. Please send articles and letters to the Monthly Editor or the Editorial Coordinator, other notices or announcements to the compiler. All items for the April issue by 12th March please.

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