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# TOWER AND TOWN

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In and Around Marlborough

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FEBRUARY 2018 50P

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# TOWER<sup>AND</sup>TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

NUMBER 678 FEBRUARY 2018



## In and Around Marlborough

Whether we are longstanding inhabitants of Marlborough and the surrounding area or have arrived more recently, we are likely to develop strong feelings for the place. These are formed through the people and the physical landscape we have got to know and our impressions of these remain with us, if not always entirely accurately or completely. So perhaps you will find something familiar, but novel, in this edition.

Dick Whitfield is an expert guide to the prehistoric monuments at Avebury and shows in his article that, thanks to recent developments and research, there is more to Avebury than you might have thought.

This edition also contains a more recent kind of history – memories kindly supplied by James Milsom, who grew up in the town, and Graeme Walker, who began his teaching career here. Neither you nor I will be reading these articles simply as trips down a memory lane suffused with nostalgia, for the darker side of Marlborough's history is again exposed by Andrew Ross' careful compilation of the men from this town who died in just one year, 1917, in the First World War – an appalling loss.

But Audrey Peck's always excellent 'Family News' brings our attention back this month to a number of local people who in their time as family members and as people in the community have made, and in some instances are still making, a striking impact upon lives around them and on us. With his 'Optimistic View', the Reverend Tim Novis would no doubt accept these as examples of what a positive, 'can do' attitude to life can achieve.

**John Osborne, Editor**

**Front Cover::** Avebury by Dick Whitfield

# Memories of Marlborough Graeme Walker

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*Graeme Walker spent 15 years as Head of the Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham Boys' School in New Cross, south-east London, and prior to that was Head of Upper School in a secondary modern in the Old Kent Road where, as he puts it, "not too many pupils turned up on Friday afternoons". However, he began his teaching career at Marlborough College, and in this memoir he looks back on what he gained from both town and gown.*

Arriving in Marlborough in 1959 and leaving in 1975, I taught under three Masters: Tommy Garnett, John Dancy and Roger Ellis. Running the Modern V, the traditional home for the least academic and the most philistine members of the College, was certainly a challenge. Taking them to work in factories in Swindon while staying with the families of pupils from the Headlands and Commonweal Schools was a valuable experience in attempting to bridge the gap between the private and state sectors and to get away from the belief that learning only comes from books.

John Dancy was involved in many initiatives which for me blew a breath of fresh air into the Public Schools, including having a cohort of Swindon pupils doing their Sixth Form years at the College for their A Levels. Judging from the comments of Sir Keith Porter, now Professor of Clinical Traumatology at Birmingham University, this was certainly successful. He writes:

“I was delighted to read of the progress being made in relation to the partnership with Swindon Academy: I was fortunate to be one of the students from Swindon who gained a residential place at Marlborough to study for their A Levels. I am forever in debt to the College for the opportunity.”

Sport played a big part in my life at the College. I spent many hours coaching the 1st Hockey XI and the Colts Cricket XI. There was also the opportunity for me to play hockey for Wiltshire and beyond and it was here that I discovered and enjoyed the fact that most of the Marlborough Town and Wiltshire hockey teams were made up of local farmers. This helped me out of the narrower confines of boarding school life!

During this time College pupils were called by their Christian names for the first time and girls were admitted to the school, eventually leading to the majority of public schools becoming co-educational. The boys and girls also had the opportunity to choose their own personal tutors. All these innovations helped to make College life more human but were not introduced without opposition!

Other memories include the Modern V taking their British Constitution A Level in one year; a week's visit to the Ashington Coal Mine in Northumberland; taking boys on visits to the Mayflower Family Centre run by the Revd David Sheppard; the Aylesbury Arms Hotel being a place of hospitality where town and gown

enjoyed each other's company; being Housemaster of A2 House with Andrew Studdert-Kennedy being a model pupil; running a Bible study meeting after lunch on Sundays in Field House; and my being married to Sue Pardoe in St Peter's Church on the 26th October 1972 with Martin Harrison as my best man. All memorable indeed.

But I began to be conscious that I didn't want to spend the whole of my life teaching the children of those who could afford private education. Roger Ellis gave me a three-year sabbatical and after a short spell running a careers centre in Norfolk I was appointed the Head of the Upper School of a secondary modern in the Old Kent Road where I was a member of the Senior Management Team. I worked closely with the Social, Probation and Welfare Services and with the Police. I learnt about Special Needs and how to lead a school where not too many pupils turned up on Friday afternoons. I found working for the Inner London Education Authority interesting and inspiring. All this and more before I was appointed Head of the Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham Boys' School in New Cross where I served for 15 years.

After my retirement in 1994 I joined the Education Department of HMP Highpoint, worked for the Secondary Heads' Association and became a Licensed Lay Reader, helping out in the Highpoint Chaplains' Department as well as in local churches in South Cambridgeshire where we lived.

Looking back on my experience leads me to the conclusion that the basics of learning and teaching are the same in the private and state sectors, provided one is on a learning and listening curve oneself. I can also confirm that the friends I made at Marlborough, both town and gown, are second to none. Thank you, Marlborough, for giving me so many good memories!



## FILMS AND LIVE SCREENING MARLBOROUGH TOWN HALL

**Wednesday 7th February 7.15 pm** 'Tosca' live from the ROH

**Wednesday 28th February 7.15 pm** 'The Winter's Tale' live screening from the ROH

**Tickets** on line from <https://marlboroughonscreen.events> or from The White Horse Bookshop or Sound Knowledge. Also tickets at the door.

# Memories of a Misspent Youth James Milsom

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I was born in Chiminage Close, Blowhorn Street, in 1943. My dad was Richard (Dick) Milsom, a plumber and my mum (Hilda) was from a farm workers' family in Downton. The family have been in Marlborough for six generations. I had two older sisters and two younger brothers and on my fifth birthday in 1948 the family moved from Chiminage Close to St Margaret's Mead. This occurred because Doctor Tim was persuaded that a move from the cold and draughty Chiminage Close house to the lower down and still under-construction St Margaret's Mead would benefit my recurring croup.

The removal to 'The Mead' was carried out by Mr Perry who had a haulage business and home in London Road. Quite a thrill for a five-year old to ride in the lorry! Dad never learned to drive so rides other than on a bus were rare treats which only happened when uncles visited. Five Stiles Road had yet to be built and the Mead ended where the Recreation Ground begins. The land between there and the railway cutting was farmed by Mr Strong. He also owned the shop which stood on the corner of Salisbury Road and George Lane. Mrs Strong ran the shop. Until Five Stiles Road was built, at harvest time we would chase rats and rabbits as Mr Strong's corn was threshed by a machine driven by a traction engine. Near the Strong's shop and almost opposite the Roman Catholic Church was a forge where we would watch the blacksmith about his work.

Situated as it is between Savernake Forest and the Kennet, St Margaret's Mead was a paradise for the many kids who lived there. We roamed the forest and paddled in the Kennet in Stonebridge Lane. When it snowed we sledged on the hill above the Mead or better still down Butterfly Alley on Granham Hill. There was of course the risk that the more reckless could find themselves in the railway cutting or, at Butterfly Alley, in the Kennet. The hill in Stonebridge Lane was our soap box cart race track. The aim was to start at the top and cross the bridge. No pram or pedestrian was safe.

The forest was our adventure playground and the source of much firewood when fuel was expensive and smoke free zones non-existent. Youngsters dragging huge branches down the road attracted no comment or attention from the police, which seems extraordinary these days. There were rules, however. We only took wood from fallen trees, of which there always seemed to be one, and never from standing ones - green wood doesn't burn very well. There were traces of the Second War in the Forest. Ammunition could be found along Long Harry where there had been ammunition stores. This was (terrifyingly) much sought after by us children.

*To be continued in a subsequent issue. The complete memoir is on the Tower and Town website.*

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# In Memoriam 1917

## Marlborough in the First World War

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### March

Corporal **Laurie Alexander Manderson**. Royal Army Medical Corps. Died at home on 12 March 1917. Laurie is buried in St Katherine's Churchyard in Savernake Forest.

### April

Private **Arthur Leonard Beach**. 2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment. Killed in action on 9 April 1917.

Private **Herbert J Taylor**. 2nd Battalion Leinster Regiment. Killed in action on 12 April 1917.

Rifleman **Harry Westall**. 12th Kings Royal Rifle Corps. Killed in action on 25 April 1917.

Lance Corporal **Roy Fitzherbert Glass**. 17th Battalion Kings Royal Fusiliers. Killed in action 29 April 1917. Roy was one of two sons of William Glass to be killed in the War. Roy had been in France for two years when he was killed. His younger brother was killed a year later just before the war ended. William was the proprietor of Glass's the tobacconist at 16 High Street.

### May

Lance Corporal **Fred Strong**. 1st Battalion Somerset Light Infantry. Killed in action on 3 May 1917.

Private **Francis Looker**. 9th Labour Company, Devonshire Regiment. Killed in action on 8 May 1917.

Private **Archibald Thomas Peal**. 2nd Honourable Artillery Company. Killed in action on 15 May 1917. Archie was the son of the Head Master of St Peter's School. He was a bank clerk before he enlisted into the HAC, an exclusive unit that was very selective with recruits.

### June

Private **Eric Raymond Leak**. 1st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment. Killed in action on 7 June 1917.

*Continued on the next page*

# In Memoriam 1917 *continued*

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Gunner **Richard Charles Wood**. Machine Gun Corps (Motor Branch). Killed in action on 12 June 1917. Charles enlisted under age into the Wiltshire Regiment. He was on guard duty in the trenches when he was killed by shell fire.

Private **Henry John Milsom**. 10th Field Ambulance Royal Army Medical Corps. Killed in action on 15 June 1917. Henry's younger brother was also killed a year earlier on the Somme. Henry was a Territorial soldier who had joined up in 1913.

Lance Corporal **George Marsh**. 3rd/10th Battalion Middlesex Regiment. Killed in action on 20 June 1917.

Private **Francis William Sprules**. 1st/8th Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment. Killed in action on 22 June 1917. Francis was a near neighbour of Charles Wood who was reported killed 10 days earlier.

## July

Second Lieutenant **Arthur Clements Heberden**. 2nd Battalion Kings Royal Rifle Corps. Killed in action on 10 July 1917. Second Lieutenant Heberden was Director of Music at the College. He was one of 63 soldiers from the 2nd Battalion Kings Royal Rifle Corps who were killed and named on the Nieuport Memorial to the missing. The Battalion was holding the line from the sea for a mile when they were cut off and annihilated.

Gunner **Wilfred Wiggins**. 161st Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery. Killed in action on 25 July 1917.

Gunner **James William Birt**. 244th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery. Killed in action on 26 July 1917.

## August

Lance Corporal **Richard Henry Smith**. 2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment. Killed in action on 2 August 1917.

Private **Walter Harold Cox**. 1st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment. Killed in action on 6 August 1917.

Captain **William Herbert Bambridge**. 24th Battalion Royal Fusiliers. Killed in action on 19 August 1917.

## October

Private **Sidney Walter Eyers**. 2nd/7th Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers. Killed in action on 9 October 1917

Able Seaman **Ernest Hoare**. Hood Battalion, Royal Naval Division. Killed in

action on 26 October 1917. The Royal Naval Division was an unusual division as it was entirely made up of sailors who were surplus to the requirement of the sea-going fleet and were trained and used as infantry on the Western front.

### November

Private **Stanley Dyas**. 5th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment. Killed in action on 10 November 1917 in Iraq.

Lance Corporal **Robert John Neate**. 1st/4th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment. Killed in action on 13 November 1917 in Palestine. More than 70 men from Marlborough who joined up in 1914 served in this battalion. They were on garrison duty in India for the first three years of the war. They were transferred to Egypt in 1917 to fight the Turkish army in Palestine.

Sapper **William Collins**. Royal Engineers, 262 Railway Construction Company. Killed in action on 14 November 1917.

Private **Edric Alfred Baker**. Kings Own (Royal Lancaster) Regiment. Killed in action on 10 November 1917 in Iraq.

### December

Lance Corporal **Arthur Henry Marchant**. 2/7th Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment. Killed in action on 5 December 1917.

Private **Percy William Swatton**. 1st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment. Killed in action on 10 December 1917.

*Research and text kindly supplied by Andrew Ross*

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# Good Reads recommended by Deborah Reynolds

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At last year's Marlborough LitFest I heard John Boyne (author of *The Boy In The Striped Pyjamas*) speak about his tenth adult novel *The Heart's Invisible Furies*. He was a great speaker and spoke movingly about growing up gay in Catholic Church-dominated Ireland and thus feeling a perpetual outsider and disapproved of.

He inspired me to read his book, which might not be to everyone's taste but I found compelling. It is a big sweeping story told in seven-year blocks featuring the life of Cyril Avery, an orphan raised by indifferent adoptive parents and forced to make his own way in a difficult and complex world. Through Cyril's life serious issues are addressed with a mixture of humour and tragedy and written in a powerful storytelling style.

By contrast, I enjoy the crime novel genre and was delighted to discover recently that W. H. Auden was addicted to detective fiction. I have my particular favourite authors but I've found some recent crime novels too violent for me. Someone recommended the Simon Serrailler novels by Susan Hill and they got me hooked. So far there are eight in the series set in the Cathedral City of Lafferton and they are best read in order. However, there is nothing old-fashioned about the crimes which are committed or anything cosy about the characters involved. The main detective is Simon Serrailler who has his own intriguing complexities. I found them more than good mysteries, raising questions about living, God, friendships and family.

## **The Arts Society, Pewsey Vale**

The Arts Society, Pewsey Vale monthly lectures are held in the Bouverie Hall, Pewsey SN9 5QE, and cover a wide range of subjects relevant to the wonderful world of The Arts. The hall is open from 7 pm with lectures beginning at 7:30 pm for approximately one hour. Coffee/tea and wine is served from 7 pm.

### **Monday 12 February 2018**

#### **'The Follies of the Irish: Mad Buildings for Madder People'**

by Thomas Duncan, an insight into the eccentric world of the Irish aristocracy.

New members very welcome. To apply for membership and for information on attendance at the lectures please contact: [pewseyvale@theartssociety.org](mailto:pewseyvale@theartssociety.org).  
Website: [www.theartsociety-pewseyvale.com](http://www.theartsociety-pewseyvale.com)

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# Aspects of Avebury Dick Whitfield

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Here in Marlborough we are incredibly fortunate to have on our doorstep Avebury, not only a delightful small village containing a superb small Tudor manor house, but the site of one of the great monuments of the prehistoric world, with its massive stone circle, or henge, and a wealth of remarkable Neolithic and Bronze Age sites in the surrounding landscape.

It is easy when visiting Avebury to assume that what you see has always been there, timeless, unchanging. Yet constant change is more the true story. When the archaeologist Alexander Keiller arrived in Avebury in 1925, prior to his reconstruction work on the henge, only 15 of the original total of nearly 200 stones in the outer & inner circles remained standing. Time had accounted for some, many were (and some still are) buried, most likely in pursuance of early Christian edicts that ‘any stone used in any act of pagan worship should be destroyed or buried’; and many went into the fabric of the buildings and walls of the village once the local population honed the skills of stone-breaking.

Much of the stone destruction occurred during the post-Civil War period of the 17th and early 18th centuries. During this time Avebury became a thriving centre for a Nonconformist chapel community, encouraged by the Five Mile Act of 1665 under which dissenting ministers were forbidden from preaching within 5 miles of their previous benefices. Avebury thus established a ‘Five Mile Chapel’ in 1670, with a growing congregation of dissenters from Marlborough, Devizes, and Calne – all more than 5 miles distant. However, members of this community were themselves instrumental in the continuing destruction of the henge, and the fabric of today’s delightful and evocative Avebury Chapel almost certainly contains fragments of ancient stones from the monument.

Sadly this community has dwindled, but although worship has now ceased the future of the Chapel appears safe. The National Trust have recently acquired this historic building and plan to use it not only for local groups but as a base from which to support their membership and promote the World Heritage Site, and as a start point for many of the Trust’s trails and archaeological walks.

To the rear of the Chapel sits the Quiet Garden, an enchanting, peaceful space with an unrivalled view over the southern Inner Circle. And it is here, through the wonders of modern archaeological techniques, that a major and intriguing discovery was made in 2017.

Ground-penetrating radar has just revealed evidence of a much earlier development, a square shaped formation appearing to contain a building or dwelling within the enigmatic stone settings of this part of the monument. The

evidence is still being evaluated but is pointing towards a significant phase of construction and possible habitation in the first half of the 4th millennium BC, a date for the origins of the henge several centuries earlier than previously believed.



## “Brilliant Young Pianist in St Peter’s Church”

Jessica Zhu

Sunday 18 February 7.30pm

Ravel	Sonatine
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Maurice Ohana	24 Preludes (selection)
Rachmaninoff	Sonata No. 2 Op. 36

Tickets £10 from White Horse Bookshop and Sound Knowledge

# What's on in February

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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**

10-11.30am: Christchurch. Friendship Club.

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.

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

7.30-9pm: St Peter's Church. Marlborough Community Choir.

7.30-9pm: Bell-ringing practice at St John's. Mildenhall.

2-3pm: St George's, Preshute (*every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wed*) Teddy Prayers & Picnic. A service with tea & cakes for U5s & their carers.

### **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*)

2pm Mildenhall Village Hall. Marlborough Floral Club. £30 a year membership. £5 guest. 520129. (*1st 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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## February calendar

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### **2nd (Friday)**

7.30pm St Peter's Church. Talk by Dr Dominick Donald: 'Don't let your psychology make the world look like a prison'. £15 (£12 members) from the door.

8pm Town Hall. Marlborough Community Choir. £14 from Sound Knowledge.

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### **4th (Sunday)**

3.00pm Ellis Theatre, Marlborough. Ksenija Sidorova (accordion).

### **5th (Monday)**

2pm Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. Talk by Sandra Meech: 'Journey to the Heart'.

### **7th (Wednesday)**

7.15pm Town Hall. Live screening of 'The Mindy Project'. In adv, £17.50 on door.

7.30pm Wesley Hall, Oxford Street. Mclvor & Jean Cowley (The Mclvor Project). 'Easier'.

### **9th (Friday)**

Marlborough College: Start of term. St John's Academy: End of term.

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### **11th (Sunday)**

Barbury Race Course. Vine & Olive.

### **12th (Monday)**

7.30pm Bouverie Hall, Pewsey. Lecture by Thomas Durkin: 'Mad Buildings for Madder People'. All welcome (£7). 07775 683163

### **14th (Wednesday)**

12.30pm 40 St Martins. Widow's Walk. All welcome. 514030.

7.45pm Wesley Hall, Oxford Street. Talk by Lee Hayward: 'World of the Future'.



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**15th (Thursday)**

7.30pm St Peter's Church. History Society. Lecture by Dr Nick Snashall: 'Living with Monuments: Avebury and the search for its people'. Guests £4, students half price.

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**18th (Sunday)**

7.30pm St Peter's Church. Concert: Jessica Zhu (piano). £10 £8 (MBG & St Peter's Trust members).

Marlborough College: End of Half Term.

Stanton Country Park: Prospect 10k. Entry fee £15.  
[www.prospect-hospice.net/k](http://www.prospect-hospice.net/k)

**19th (Monday)**

St John's Academy: Start of Term 4.

11am Ellendune Community Centre, Wroughton. The Arts Society Kennet & Swindon. Lecture by Christopher Rogers 'James Wyatt - Charlatan or Genius'. Guests welcome (£7). 01793 840790 (note swap of lecture).

7.30pm Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. KV National Trust Association. Lecture by David Stubbs: 'Newbury's Civil War'. £3, £4 non members.

**21st (Wednesday)**

10-12.30: The Merchant's House. Spring Study Series 'The Georgian Age'. Lecture No.1 by Michael Hart 'The English Aristocracy'. Advance booking at the MH essential. See p19.

**24th (Saturday)**

2.30 Devizes Museum. Lecture by Emily Naish: 'Salisbury Cathedral – from Medieval to Modern'. £7 (£4.50 for WANHS members). 01380 727369.

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**25th (Sunday)**

7.30pm Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. Film: 'Victoria and Abdul'.

**28th (Wednesday)**

7.15pm Town Hall. Live screening from ROH: 'The Winter's Tale'. £15 in adv, £17.50 on door.

# An Optimistic View The Rev. Tim Novis

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I have heard on more than one occasion in my ten years in the UK that there are few things less palatable to the British psyche than the syrupy ‘can-do’, chronic positivity of North Americans that always insists on finding something good even in the midst of the maelstrom, and which then, even worse, goes on to state aloud this hope and optimism directly, without any tempering dash of irony. But I wonder if British tastes might be changing.

Considering the intensity of the challenges brought by 2017, on New Year’s Day the headline of The Times read, ‘Britons Upbeat About Jobs and House Prices’. The poll that drew this conclusion suggests that ‘More than half the population think that their personal financial situation will stay the same or improve over the next year’. If this ends up to be true then what a wonderful and prophetic forecast from the ‘more than half’. I wonder if this flagrant example of such buoyant optimism is indicative of a sociological shift that sees more people embracing a spirit of hope in a manner less veiled than in the past. Or maybe one shouldn’t read The Times with an American literal-mindedness.

You might join me, though, in finding the words of Barack Obama helpful as we look ahead at the upcoming year, and wonder what it might bring. In an interview on Radio 4, conducted by Prince Harry in Toronto, Obama said: ‘All the problems we face are solvable despite all the terrible news that you see. If you had to choose a moment in human history in which you’d want to be born you’d choose today, because the fact is that the world is healthier, wealthier, better educated and more tolerant, more sophisticated and less violent.’

I shared the President’s positive message in my opening address to the students at Marlborough College as they began a new term and the New Year. Because I know that like attracts like. Young people are, to a larger extent than their older counterparts, chronically positive, deeply hopeful and optimistic about the change they can effect in their world. As I suspected, they very much liked what Obama had to say to Prince Harry.

Dare I say that these are traits expected to be exhibited by those who profess themselves followers of Christ. The writer of the Letter to the Hebrews writes encouragingly to such as these: ‘Do not, therefore, abandon that confidence of yours; it brings a great reward.’ That confidence comes from an inner sense that, in the words of Julian of Norwich, ‘All shall be well, and all shall be well.’ We can say this through the power of faith which is, again in Hebrews, ‘the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.’

All that remains for a wonderful 2018 for us all, is that we act on what we hope

for and make it a reality. We need to embrace a ‘can-do’ attitude, even if it smacks at times of the syrupy. If we allow ourselves to fall victim to a resignation that *plus ça change, plus c’est la même chose*, then we should hang up our ice-hockey skates, take our puck and go home, because that too can become a self-fulfilling prophesy.

The Rev. Tim Novis,  
Senior Chaplain, Marlborough College

### FROM THE REGISTERS

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#### **Baptism**

7 January Elicia Griffiths and Amelie Rose Hounslow at St George’s

#### **Departed**

13 November Sonia Alice Werrell (70) of 11 Stonebridge Close, Marlborough  
*St Mary’s and Kingsdown Crematorium*

18 November Pamela Jean Denning (81) of 64 Saffron Close, Royal Wootton Bassett  
*Kingsdown Crematorium*

23 November Alan Richard Grindley (72) of 14 The Green, Marlborough  
*St Mary’s and Marlborough Cemetery*

30 November David Smith (90) of Flat 14, 10 The Green, Marlborough  
*Kingsdown Crematorium*

30 November Diana ‘Di’ Elisabeth Devonshire (77) of Cock A Troop, Chopping Knife Lane, Marlborough  
*St John the Baptist and Minal Cemetery*

4 December Anthony ‘Tony’ Walter Skittrall (85) of 9 George Lane, Marlborough  
*St Mary’s and Marlborough Cemetery*

21 December Valerie Patricia Fullick (83) of 9 Churchill Court, Marlborough  
*St Mary’s and Kingsdown Crematorium*

31 December Stephen ‘Flash’ Gilbert (63) of 4 Reeds Ground, Marlborough  
*Kingsdown Crematorium*

1 January Douglas Perston Shaw (85) of Merlin Court, Marlborough  
*St Mary’s and West Berkshire Crematorium, Thatcham*

6 January Deirdre Diana Rix (89) of Highfield, Marlborough  
*St Mary’s and Kingsdown Crematorium*

# Marlborough Churches Together

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## Usual Sunday Service times

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

- 9.00am Worship
- 10.30am Morning Service with Junior Church and crèche

### **Society of Friends, Friends Meeting House, The Parade**

- 10.30am Meeting for Worship

### **St George's, Preshute (C of E)**

- 8.00am Holy Communion (1st and 3rd Sunday)
- 10.00am All Age Service (3rd 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** Tea Time followed by Evening Prayer: 4.30pm Weds.  
Teddy Prayers and Picnic: 2-3pm every 2nd & 4th Wed

# Marlborough Church Contacts

---

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David Evans 'Aristocratic Patronage—Paintings and Collections'

Wednesday 21st March, 10am - 12:30  
Christopher Rogers 'Palladio Revisited'

Wednesday 28th March, 10am  
Visit to Basildon Park with Christopher Rogers TBC

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# Family News compiled by Audrey Peck

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Congratulations to **Christopher Loveday** who was awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours for 'Services to Children, to people with Mental Health issues and the Community of Swindon'. This is in recognition of a lifetime's involvement in charity work. He was very involved in setting up Swindon Business Cares for Children. The objective was initially to raise enough money to purchase a property in Swindon, to open a Child Protection Centre, for the NSPCC. Once achieved, it was possible to fund the day to day running of the centre for a number of years. This initiative became a model for other areas of the country. The recession in the late 80's hit Chris's firm Loveday & Loveday hard and by 1991 he became very ill, suffering a nervous breakdown. After recovering he became interested in mental health and changed direction completely. He took up running again, lost weight and decided to put more energy into charity work. He firmly believes that being close to nature and having a faith and, mostly, having the support of loyal and loving family and friends was key to his recovery. In 1996 he was instrumental in setting up 'Mindfully Employed' a mental health charity in Marlborough. Since 2008 Chris has been involved with TWIGS (a mental health charity in Swindon) as a fundraiser.

*For more information on TWIGS: <http://twigscommunitygardens.org.uk>*

*For information on events/ open days: <http://www.friendsoftwigs.org.uk>*

**Alec Light** was announced Citizen of the Year at the Christmas Lights Ceremony. He is a Marlborough man. He played football for the town and for the county. He had a trial for England Boys Under 16s. He was in the Royal Engineers for three years, was one of the 'guinea pigs' during the atomic bomb tests on Christmas Island. His unit spent 3 days in Honolulu and were entertained by Bob Hope and Jayne Mansfield. For more than 40 years he has been active in the British Legion. He was a key organiser in the Annual Carnival and recently he and his family worked at the Car Boot Sales, first on site and last to leave. He has been a Town Councillor for 4 years. His well-known words are 'Let me know if there is anything I can do'. Thanks to Alec for his contribution to the town.

**Tristan and Lara Marsh** had a special Christmas! Their baby daughter was born on Christmas morning.

**Tony Skittrall** died at home in George Lane. He is mostly remembered for his 16 years' service as Town Clerk, a job he loved. He was born here and went to St Peter's Boys school, now the Library, and the Grammar School, at the bottom of the Parade, with his late sister, Rosemary. He had many hobbies: the Choir in St Peter's and St Mary's Churches, football, cricket (Hon. Life Member of the Cricket Club), Marlborough Amateur Dramatic & Operatic Society and Founder Member

of the Lions Club but his special hobby was gardening. He propagated thousands of plants and gave them to friends and family. Although he had been ill for some time he loved to do things with his grandchildren, Poppy and Stanley. Sincere sympathy to Anne and their daughters, Rachel and Nicola, and all the family.

**Denis Ramsay** came to live in Marlborough in 1962. He was in the Royal Navy from 1947-49, had lived in Swindon and in 1956 married Margaret there before moving to Burbage. Although he was busy with his work as a telephone engineer and father of two young sons he became very active here. In the Swimming Club he was a hard-working member and a teacher. In retirement he was a Liberal Democrat member of Kennet District Council and helped set up the New Road Centre. He was Chairman of the Kennet Community Bus committee and drove the bus for many years. He regularly attended at Christchurch. He and Margaret loved travelling especially in Australia and nearer to home he enjoyed the annual family camps at Totteridge Farm. His many friends and family were at Christchurch on November 29th to support Margaret and their sons and families and to give thanks for his life.

**Tom Seaman** was born in Mildenhall in 1946. His mother died when he was 5 and he was lovingly looked after by his Auntie Hilda in Devon or Gladys Smith in Mildenhall. Aged 7 he was sent to boarding school in Swindon. His father was a dairy farmer in Mildenhall. Tom went to Lackham Agricultural College where he flourished in all subjects relating to farming including welding and farm mechanics but he preferred construction and built his first house in Axford. He married Sarah in 1984 and together they had three children: Alex born in 1986, Dominic in 1989 and Rebecca in 1991. He ran a pig herd and built houses all around the area including a beautiful family farm house in 1995. He loved his sport. In his youth he was a great rugby player and skier but also a lover of game shooting. He taught both his boys to shoot and together they made a formidable trio. His grandson Edward was born in 2014 and was the apple of his eye. The pair were inseparable. During the past 10 years he and Sarah enjoyed spending time at their caravan in Wareham. They loved their time away including their boating exploits, some successful - some not! It was a place where he could relax, no longer on the go all the time. Tom loved people. He was full of life and full of fun. Seeing over 800 people at his funeral says it all. Tom will be remembered for his love of life, his vitality and vigour, his amazing character and, above all, his pride and adoration for his family. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

*Continued on the next page*

## Family News *continued*

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**Roger Upton MBE** died after a long illness. He grew up in Wootton Bassett with his identical twin and two other brothers and a sister. He went to Grammar School in Swindon and then into the Horse Guards. As a teenager he became interested in Falconry which was his lifelong passion. It took him around the world especially the Arab countries. In 2014 he received his MBE for services to Falconry, Conservation and his book, *The History of Falconry*. He and his wife, Jean, opened the Leather Shop, now in Hughenden Yard, in 1962 and ran it together in the early years. Our sympathy to Jean, their sons, Mark and Guy, and their four grandchildren, all of whom are keen on Art and the Countryside.

### **Kennet and Avon Medical Partnership**

#### ***Did you know...?***

This year, more than 4700 patients were eligible to receive the influenza vaccine from the practice.

As of 30 November, 3710 patients have been vaccinated. Of these, 3233 vaccinations took place on a Saturday, which is over 300 additional vaccinations given on a Saturday compared to last year. This was only made possible through staff giving up a total of 210 hours of their time to run these clinics.

We are delighted we have been able to offer so many patients the opportunity to be vaccinated at the surgery with the latest Quadrivalent vaccine.

Last year, 4150 Pewsey and Marlborough patients were vaccinated throughout the whole of the flu period. With 4 months of the vaccination period still to run, we are confident we will top this figure this year to ensure as many people as possible are protected.

*If you are entitled to the flu vaccine but have still not received it, do contact the surgery after 11 am on weekdays to arrange an appointment.*





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# From Karen's Kitchen

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## Spicy Parsnip Soup (serves 6)

This recipe should help warm you up on a cold, damp February day.

- 3 large parsnips
- 1 large onion
- 1 clove garlic
- 2 tart eating apples
- 1 chicken stock cube (+ boiling water to cover veg)
- 2 teaspoons curry powder
- 1 teaspoon crushed cardamom seeds
- 1 tablespoon sunflower oil
- salt and pepper
- single cream or yoghurt and chopped parsley for garnish

Peel and chop parsnips, onion, apples and garlic.

Heat oil in large saucepan and add onion to soften, and then garlic and the parsnips. Cook for 5 minutes, stirring, and then add the apples, followed by the spices, making sure they don't burn. Cover with the water and stock cube and some salt. Simmer for 30 minutes.

Liquidise in Magimix or pulverise in saucepan with hand liquidiser and add some milk if too thick. Test seasoning adding freshly ground black pepper and maybe more salt. Taste well and, if it needs it, add a tablespoon of chutney or some lemon juice.

Serve with a drizzle of single cream or yoghurt and some chopped parsley.

This is a basic recipe that can be varied to use up different vegetables (carrots/sweet potato) or spices (turmeric, cumin, saffron). Tasting before serving is part of the pleasure.

# NEWS from the Churches

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## **MCT Lent Series**

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7.30 – 9.00 at Christchurch. Admission free, donations welcome.

21st Feb. Lizzie Whitbread, Diocesan Adviser for Work with Young People.

28th Feb Matthew Devlin, Chairman of Community Chaplaincy Association  
which supports people coming out of prison.

7th March James Woodward, principal of Sarum College.

14th March Geoff Green, Open Doors UK.

In this series, we will hear the often unheard stories of the people living on the fringes of our communities, discovering the hope they contain for the increasingly challenging world we live in.

Lizzie Whitbread will challenge us to think how we can engage with the young people in our town. Matthew Devlin will reflect on the work of Community Chaplaincy for those coming out of prison seeking to return to society. James Woodward, author of the book 'Between Remembering and Forgetting: the Spiritual Dimensions of Dementia' will consider where we may see hope when people around us seem to fade away. Geoff Green, presenter of the 'Hope for the Middle East' petition to the UK parliament will speak on how to serve and support persecuted Christians.

A thought-provoking series this Lent, challenging both our spiritual journeys and our response to the world as we find it today.

## **Ash Wednesday** 14th February

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

## **MCT Fraternal**

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The next fraternal, now an open meeting, will be at 12.45 on 1st February at the Quaker Meeting House in the Parade.

The AGM of Marlborough Churches Together will be on 7th February in St Mary's Hall at 7.00 with a shared supper, and all are welcome.

## **Women's Fellowship**

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Meetings start again this month each Tuesday in Christchurch at 2.45:

6th Eileen Gilbert (WWDP).

13th Father John Blacker.

20th Sandra Wylie. Bring and Buy

27th Kate Trowbridge

## **Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group**

The next meeting of MAPAG will be on 5th February at 7.30 in the Friends Meeting House in the Parade. We will discuss strategy and plans for 2018. All are welcome

## **Sunday Lunch Club**

On Sunday 11th February at 12.45. To reserve a place please contact the Church Office at Christchurch 513701.

## **Filling Station**

Following the opening of the newly refurbished Marlborough Community and Youth Centre we have managed to secure the use of the large hall, kitchen, etc for the meetings this term. This is a exciting development as it sees members of God's church worshipping in the heart of the community, seeking to bless those who live round about and beyond. Please pray that this opportunity to reflect the love and truth of Jesus will be blessed and grow in touching lives.



Meetings this term will be Wednesday 21st February; and Wednesday 21st March when we will be showing the powerful feature film 'The Shack', a Hollywood dramatization of William Young's well-known novel. Further details from Helen and Vincent Stokes on [hcstokes@gmail.com](mailto:hcstokes@gmail.com).

## **Hangout@Devotion**

The drop-in centre for local young people on Thursdays from 7-8.30pm in the Wesley Hall, Marlborough, SN8 1AH.

Volunteer helpers are always welcome, to find out more please contact Janneke: [jblokland@gmail.com](mailto:jblokland@gmail.com)

## **Marlborough Deanery Synod**

'Growing Rural Churches' is a talk on Saturday 3rd February at 10.30am to 1.00pm in Chiseldon Church Hall.

Canon Jean Coates (Vice-chair of Arthur Rank centre/Germinate, based in rural Warwickshire and former Rural Dean for Dorset) will be sharing some resources that might help our churches to grow and continue to thrive. All are invited and welcome.

## **Women's World Day of Prayer**

This will be celebrated on Friday 2nd March at St John's, Pewsey and other churches. Details should be available on church notices nearer that date.



# Tower and Town staff

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**Contributions and comments** from readers are welcome. Please send articles and letters to the Monthly Editor or the Editorial Coordinator, other notices or announcements to the compiler. All items for the March issue by 6th February please.

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