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NEW  
World

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# TOWER<sup>AND</sup>TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

NUMBER 670 MAY 2017



## *New World*

The advent of a new world signals big changes which could be welcomed or shunned. In addition some of us could aspire to bring about changes in order to create a better new world.

Education is considered crucial for initiating and coping with changes. For this reason I include two articles that address educational challenges; and a third that highlights the positive outcomes of a modern education/business partnership. By looking at education from different perspectives these articles draw a more diversified picture for the way ahead.

*Education in a New World* - Jonathan Leigh (Master, Marlborough College)

*Towards a Better Education System* - Steve Wain (Principal, Swindon College)

*New World by Design* – Nemat Jarjis (HE Programme Leader, Swindon College)

In addition, I trust that you will be entertained by the two articles of Roy Smith. He excellently captures the widely held sentiments towards change in *Who Needs a New World*; and creates an imaginative world in *Landing with the Captain*.

Finally, I have written for you several “New World” inspired articles about aspects of architecture, knowledge, energy & environment, and scientific imagination. In addition, please note my linked articles, “Tears in Heaven” & “The Passion of Boy Scout Mazen”, which expose an evil new world.

**Raik Jarjis , Editor**

**Front Cover** by Raik Jarjis

Passion Play photos by Hugh de Saram

# Education in a New World: Jonathan Leigh

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“Men are born ignorant, not stupid; they are made stupid by education”. So said Bertrand Russell but the one thing we all have in common is some experience of education, good or bad. As we head towards the third decade of this century it seems that the only thing which is constant is change. The effect of this on each generation is to make them more quizzical and reflective. They realise that new opportunities are infinite in a world where schools prepare their pupils for jobs which may not even exist. Equally, the concept of them holding a single career has become increasingly unlikely.

School life continues to be taken up with examinations and the pressures associated with measuring success. Nevertheless, the growth of new technology and an emphasis on “right brained” thinking would seem to be essential in the next phase of educational requirement. That said, there is still a huge need for traditionally backed subjects. We neglect the classics, art, archaeology and especially modern languages at our peril. It is heartening to see that the sale of traditional books is on the rise once again. As ever the best education comes from being a blend of old and new; something in constant flux.

Where a healthy balance of traditional curriculum and a wealth of extra-curricular activities exists then the greatest gift of all is realised. That is the growth of the whole person. Character will emerge; the basis of moving beyond those aspects of education where Russell felt stupefied. It may be that conventional education is finding it hard to keep up with what is needed in the workplace. Nonetheless, a well-rounded experience where young people have a rigorous work ethic can still be the basis for an engaged and fulfilling life. Children are all creative and when that spark is found, then has been achieved that balance of a sound educational background that will be of inestimable value in the new world.



A sea of people came from miles around to fill the Parade and marvel at the Marlborough Community Passion Play. Sunny weather blessed the powerful performance.

*Marlborough Passion  
Play 2017*

The Crucifixion

# Clergy Letter: David Campbell

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## *May: The Month of Mary*

Turning to the ever-reliable Wiki we learn that the month of May “was named for the Greek goddess Maia, who was identified with the Roman goddess of fertility, *Bona Dea*, whose festival was held each year in May.” Conversely, the Roman poet Ovid provides us with a second etymology, in which the month of May is named for the *maiores*, the Latin word, just in case you have forgotten it, for “elders.”

Perhaps equally helpful is the birthstone for the month, which as anyone born within the span of these 31 days will tell you, is the emerald – that most magnificent of stones and to me so redolent of those universal qualities of love and success.

For Christian people on every continent May has another connotation: it has been traditionally understood as “The Month of Mary.” On the 31<sup>st</sup> May believers celebrate the visit of Elizabeth, the pregnant mother of John the Baptist, to her cousin Mary of Nazareth. That particular encounter ends with Mary saying those words which speak so strongly of both love and success. Love, which had surrounded her from her birth. Success and the sense of unworthiness which should accompany it, because the God in whom she trusted in turn entrusted her with the birth and nurturing of a child. A child who by his teachings and example would revolutionise the lives of many of those whose lives he would touch, whether in the First century or in the Twenty-first. Mary’s song of love and success goes like this:

My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.

# Notes on a New World: Raik Jarjis

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“It was a warm sunny day as I walked down a path in South America and came across a plateau on my right. Intrigued by the presence of strange looking high trees I climbed towards the plateau and found myself in a different world”. This is a vision which took hold of my mind when I was 10 after reading *The Lost World* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. I was then thrilled by the outcomes of discovery plus the realisation that it is only an extremely thin imaginary membrane that separates our existing world from the new. However, it took me many “wisdom years” to realise that a new world is not necessarily a better world. The following rather personal “new world” topics are from my own diary.



## **Knowledge Paradox**

It was within a darkened hall that the podium was illuminated by a spotlight as I talked about knowledge. This was the 2007 Dubai government meeting on electricity supply, and the subject of knowledge did not look out of place. This is because the impact of Silicon Valley (USA) and the emergence of Information Technology brought forth a new world in which knowledge constitutes a business asset. This prompted the late father of modern management, Peter F. Drucker, to coin the term “Knowledge Worker” with reference to the worker who is associate rather than subordinate due to the fact that he/she knows more about his/her job than anybody else in the organisation. Since then we have got accustomed to the terms “Knowledge Economy”, “Knowledge Industry”, “Knowledge Transfer” and “Knowledge Management”.

However, we are now going through the process of re-assessing the overlap of knowledge and information within business, and also their intricate relations with belief within the political and religious domains. Further worrying is also being stirred recently by the emerging acceptance of un-truth as pseudo hard knowledge within the social media.

## **Thought Experiments**

*Continued on page 7*

The Old Parsonage Hotel looked rather busy on this April morning of 1992. My eyes recorded arrival of new guests with heavy looking luggage, whilst the nursery of new worlds within my head was working hard to circumvent some pre-conceived wisdoms. Not known to me at the time as I stood by the window of my Oxford office overlooking Banbury Road was that before the end of the decade my life and of that of some others would be changed forever. I was then embarking on the quest of unifying aspects of experimental nuclear physics with archaeology, art,



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history and conservation. Yet as I stood by that window I was then merely following a defined scientific tradition that reconciles hard scientific knowledge with mould breaking using “fluid intelligence” for solving new problems and “crystallised intelligence” for tapping into stocks of accumulated knowledge.

It was after all still the early 20<sup>th</sup> century when a young man with the name of Albert Einstein decided to think differently by asking what?, and if?, in what he described as thought experiments. Scientists up till then were contented with the conclusions of the great physicist, Isaac Newton, that the force of gravity is responsible for the orbiting of planets around the sun. However, young Einstein postulated that the solar system is immersed in what he described as a fabric of Space-Time; and that heavy bodies distort this fabric. Hence space-time distortion by our heavy sun leads the nearby lighter earth to orbit around it.



It is also worthwhile to observe that the term “Space & Time” is not confined to the realms of physics. The pioneering psychoanalyst, Carl Jung, who also made his mark at the time of Einstein’s thought experiments, concluded that the human psyche has life beyond time and space.

## **Pewsey Vale Design and Fine Art Society**

will be hosting a lecture meeting at the  
The Bouverie Hall, Pewsey SN9 5QE on  
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The speaker is Joanna Hardy who is a Jewellery Expert from the Antiques Roadshow.

Guests and New Members Welcome. Drinks available from 7 pm.

For more information please visit [www.pewseyvalenadfas.org](http://www.pewseyvalenadfas.org)

# Towards Better Education: Steve Wain

---

*Can we move away from this chaotic, muddled excuse for an education system?*

I have spent the last 25 years working in Further Education and before that I was a young person myself, so for all my life I have had either a personal or professional interest in supporting them. Over that time I have witnessed the creation and subsequent closure of numerous Government Agencies charged with deciding what young people need, each being remarkably similar to what went before. All being equally unsuccessful.

I have seen the complete re-vamp of A levels and am now witnessing the reversal of this in under 20 years. I have listened intently to Ministers' plans to create parity between so called vocational and academic education, knowing full well that the inevitable proposal to change the vocational curriculum would lead only to a flurry of activity before being quietly forgotten when the minister moves on, their tenure measured in months not years.

Throughout all this time I have sought to largely sidestep what I am being told is needed by those proposing the purpose of further education is solely to meet the needs of employers. I have also sought to work collaboratively and collegiately with other colleges when I have been told that the needs of young people are best met through "competition and choice".

The notion that the provision of social goods, like education, can be improved through the wasteful duplication of resources necessary to create the market conditions, where pseudo-competition can be created, is highly contestable everywhere, except where policy is made. But, whilst it might arguably be affordable during times of plenty, this highly expensive system is simply not sustainable when funding, as is the case today, is being cut.

I use the word system lightly. We don't have an education system in England. Interestingly though, many countries do, many countries operate systems which have been left to endure for decades, subject only to necessary fine tuning along the way. My field is Further Education. In the UK, since the Second World War, we have seen in excess of 30 attempts to overhaul the vocational education sector. The corresponding figure for Germany is 2. Perhaps that says it all.

In England our political parties have decided that education policy is party politics. This justifies their dealing in education for political capital. 24 hour media need feeding and so as practitioners we have to endure this month's new initiative every month. Policy is regularly drafted on the hoof and in response to today's crisis in Westminster. This accounts for education providers being responsible for dealing with terrorism and extremism, for ensuring that no harm can come to

young people at any time, and many other things besides.

Just take a look at schools today. At a time when schools are facing a short term demographic drop in demand for school places we have more ways of opening schools than ever. Each new school offers more “choice” and the “competition” this creates will increase “standards” for all. Well, this familiar mantra rings hollow. There is no evidence to show how the opening of new schools (Free Schools, Studio Schools, University Technical Colleges, Academies, Academy Chains, dare I mention “new” Grammars ! etc) makes a blind bit of difference to the performance of young people in any given area **overall**. They do, however, provide politicians with wonderful photo opportunities and the reassurance that they have done something.

Looking to the future, however, if we want to allow young people to be better educated and better prepared for an unpredictable world then I would advocate that we take education policy out of the hands of politicians and create, with full party support, a Royal Commission to properly decide on educational policy for the next 20 years. The notion that “competition and choice” will provide high quality should be disavowed completely. The institutions that are needed, to deliver much higher expectations than we currently have for our young people, should be identified and invested in properly so they have the best resources we can provide. This would also include better paid teaching staff.

The money to provide this is already there, it is just spent unwisely. The costs of created pseudo-markets and the monitoring arrangements accompanying them aren't necessary. Ofsted could go too if institutions were accountable to their locality rather than Government.

Independent schools' charitable status could be revoked with the benefits channelled into state education. Finland seems to regularly do well in international performance tables. In Finland no school can charge fees and all intakes have to be broad. There is no streaming either. Finland seems more focussed on educating in contrast to our national obsession with grading and sorting and using education as the back stop for dealing with failings in other policy areas.

If Government had the courage to hand over responsibility things would improve quickly. If not, as is likely, we will remain subject to short term whims and a repeating cycle of doomed-to-fail initiatives. If only we had more conviction politicians and fewer career ones.

# Who Needs a New World? Roy Smith

I don't know about you, but I'm not a big fan of change. It's quite comfortable living in the world as it is, you get used to it and get into routines that can be followed without real thought or effort. Even when parts of life are difficult or boring or both, sometimes it is difficult to see a way to do different things without major disruption and more importantly,



without losing something. That always seems to be the problem, to get something better in one way, usually means a sacrifice in another. Losing that little bit of weight for example seems simple enough, cut down on the food and step up the exercise, but it involves change. Which in this case means not sitting and watching teatime television with a cup of tea and a bun after work, it means making a sacrifice and going out for a walk or a run - without the bun! So who needs to lose weight anyway, the chair only sags because it is old.

The only trouble is, things can get a bit stale and perhaps life would be better a few pounds lighter, but as the saying goes, there are only two things certain in life, death and taxes but I think there is a third - change. Life has a habit of throwing in the curve ball, just when you think things are nice and settled. Your workplace suddenly realises they need to lose some staff, or your partner suddenly declares they never really liked you anyway. Often even the expected change is far more difficult to manage than anticipated, take retirement for example. All your working life you think, "Oh one day I'll be able to retire and then I'll be able to do what I like!" The only trouble is that when retirement looms like a thundercloud over the hill, you suddenly realise that after a month of sleeping in and catching up on the little jobs, suddenly the main activity in your life has gone and the people you have worked with and know can quickly disappear.

For those more organised and thoughtful, this is probably not an issue, as with other foreseeable changes they have been preparing for years and have all kinds of interesting things lined up and can't wait to get started; please spare some pity for those others of us who suddenly realise that the work has defined you and there is nothing else planned for the future when the salary stops appearing in the bank account every month. It is not a problem if there are a few million in the bank account, there is a wide range of expensive hobbies and options, but retiring on a small pension can be worrying. This can be pretty scary and work suddenly does

not seem so bad after all. So what if getting up early and commuting to work is a real drag, it's still better than daytime television.

Still, best foot forward and all that, there are lots of brilliant things to do when there is more time available that are not expensive. Taking time to watch the buzzards and kites flying around the hills, investigating all those little paths that you have seen all over the place and wondered where they lead, finally getting around to learning that new language; taking that cookery course or the interesting one about developing your photographic skills and most importantly, having time for friends and family.

Suddenly there is a new world out there beckoning; when can I start!

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## At Home with Frodo Baggins: Raik Jarjis

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For Frodo Baggins there would be some familiarity in ascending from the deep chambers of the worm-like building. He would be further assured on sensing the diffused light emanating from the egg-white porthole leading to the rounded skylight. Yet reality attests that it is 2017 Oxford as I sit researching some archives under a porthole not in a Hobbit dwelling but within the Investcorp Building at St Antony's College. Designed by the late architect Zaha Hadid the building imbues new world charm not through scale but rather through undulating minimalism and imaginative assertion of modernity. It says 'I am the future' through its cladding, yet it also says 'I am at ease with the adjacent architecture of the past'. Hadid's building was awarded the 2016 World Architecture Festival's award for "Higher Education & Research – Completed Buildings".

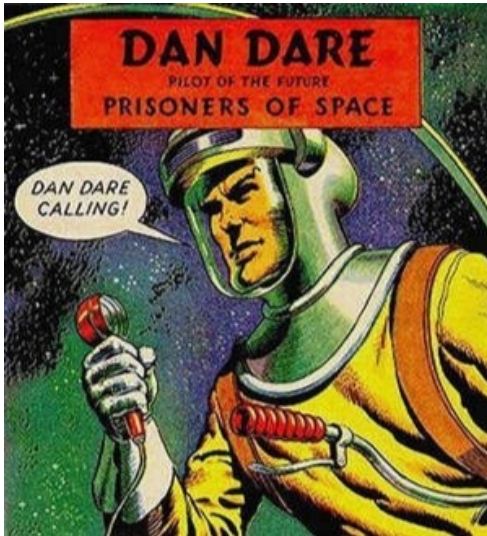




# Landing with the Captain: Roy Smith

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Ladies and gentlemen this is your captain speaking, we have found an appropriate planet with suitable conditions in the Orion arm of the Milky Way, it is somewhat on the periphery but remote surveys look promising. We shall be landing shortly on the new world so please listen to the following short briefing. The climatic conditions look very favourable and the descent should be straightforward, so begin your preparations for the landing and encampment. Unfortunately the meteor showers that we passed after the last jump have dispersed the fleet and we have been unable to regroup, so we will be the only ship landing in this section of the galaxy. However, great care was taken in the selection of each passenger complement to ensure self sufficiency so there should be no major difficulties with establishing a base. Contact with the other vessels has been lost due to damage



sustained in the communication section of the ship; we are continuing to work on repairs and this will be simplified when we land and are able to work easily outside the ship. This means that it may not be possible to link up with central command so we must assume we are on our own for the time being. Support vessels will be following at intervals to bring additional supplies and assist in the collection of any resources that we may be able to extract to return home. This will be later when we have had time to explore and in terms of the planet we are landing on, it will be in three full cycles of the planet

around the local sun. Each of these cycles is split into 365 intervals when the sun is visible from the equatorial region where we will be landing. This will provide a temperature and conditions best suited to us.

Local fauna can be considered dangerous and care should be taken, even with the hominids which seem barely more advanced intellectually than apes although they have created primitive tools and weapons. Approach with caution and we will be able to use them rather than enter into conflict, which will enhance our workforce resource and enable us to build the structures required for the following ships and our own departure.

Thank you for listening and prepare for landing - Captain out.

# Tears in Heaven: Raik Jarjis

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At around 5pm on 31 October 2010 six Islamic terrorists entered Sayedat Al-Najat Church, Our Lady of Salvation Church, in Baghdad during the Sunday evening mass in order to exterminate the Nasara, (Arabic for People of Nazareth), by carrying out periodic killings. According to eye witness accounts although the Iraqi army and police circled the church it took over two hours for a special unit to arrive and storm the church. The two hour carnage left 58 dead and nearly 80 injured or maimed. A listing of the dead was subsequently released, and it came to the attention of Raik, here in Marlborough, during 2015. A wrenching pain was felt when the list revealed the name of Mazen Fadheel Mahrouk, once a Boy Scout and childhood friend (*see article on page 16*).

Would you know my name  
If I saw you in heaven?  
Would it be the same  
If I saw you in heaven?

From *Tears in Heaven* by Eric Clapton

Ban Zaki who witnessed the horrific killing of her husband, and nearly died herself, survived and was later taken with her children to Germany where she underwent numerous abdominal operations. A picture of her slain husband now adorns a wall in her apartment in Hanover where, in spite of severe psychological and abdominal pains, she is salvaging what is left of her shattered life.

This morning the sun did rise Crimson in the north sky  
The ice was the colour of blood and the winds they did sigh  
I rose for to take a breath it was my last one  
From a gun came the roar of death and now I am done

From *The Last of the Great Whales* by Andy Barnes



*The children of Ban Zaki (Hanover 2016)*

*Witnesses to the 2010 massacre at Sayedat Al-Najat Church in Baghdad (Iraq)*

# What's on in May

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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 (or some Wednesdays)

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

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

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

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

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

### Every Thursday (or some Thursdays)

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

10:30-12 noon: Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. Singing for the Brain. Alzheimer's Support. 01225 776481. (*Every Thursday during term-time.*)

1.30-3.30pm: Wesley Hall, Christchurch. Macular Society (*last Thursday in the month*)

### Every Friday

10-12 noon: Christchurch Crush Hall. Food bank and coffee morning.

### Every 2nd Saturday

10-12 noon: Library. Marlborough & District Dyslexia Association. Drop-in advice. Help line: 07729 452143.

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## May calendar

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

11am-2.00pm Bushton Manor Plant Fair

### 3<sup>rd</sup> (Wednesday)

2-5pm The Merchant's House. Bridge Afternoon. £40

per table including Tea, R  
Appeal. 511491 (Victoria

7.30pm Wesley Hall, Oxfo  
by Vera Hamblin: 'Resolu  
welcome.

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

From 11am St John's Aca  
The Big Bike Sale. PTA c

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

2pm Kennet Valley Hall, L  
Guild; 861658. Talk by An  
Dorset Buttons'. 861658

7.30pm Bouverie Hall, Pe  
DFAS. Lecture by Joanna  
Parisian Fine Art Jeweller  
Scenes'. Guests welcome

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

12.30pm 40 St Martins (o  
Widows' Friendship Grou

7.45pm Wesley Hall, Oxfo  
Talk by Charlotte Hitchmo

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

6.30pm White Horse Boo  
about her book 'The Wild

7.30pm Town Hall. Ballet  
& Juliet'. £15 in adv, £17.

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

9.30pm Stonebridge Mea  
511028.

### 14<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)

10am-12noon Cadley SN  
Association. Savernake F  
from Rose Pack 870058.

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

11am Ellendune Hall, Wro  
DFAS. Lecture by Rosalir

affle & Prizes. In aid of MH  
Egerton).

ord Street. WI Meeting. Talk  
tion. Life in Ethiopia'. Guests

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a Hardy: 'The Art of the Great  
y Houses: Going Behind the  
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pposite The Queen's Head).  
p Lunch. 514030.

ord Street. Gardening Club.  
ough: 'Rain Gardens'.

orkshop. Clover Stroud will talk  
Other'. £5.

from La Scala, Milan: 'Romeo  
50 on door.

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oughton SN4 9LW. Kennet  
nd Whyte: 'Contemporary

Artist: Anthony Gormley and Anish Kapoor'. 01793  
840790.

7.30pm Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. NT Association.  
Lecture by Rose Somerset: 'A Story of the North  
Wessex Downs'. £3 (non members £4).

### **17<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)**

7pm St John's Academy. Kate Adie presents 'From Our  
Own Correspondent' (BBC Radio 4). £15 from WHB.

8pm Town Hall. Marlborough Folk Roots presents  
'Daphne's Flights'. £19 from Sound Knowledge.

### **18<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)**

7.30pm St Peter's Church. History Society. Lecture by  
Martin Palmer: 'Graffiti – the lost stories of the churches  
around Avebury'. Guests £4 (students £2).

7.30pm Town Hall. Film: 'Sully' (12A). £5 in adv, £6 on  
door.

### **19<sup>th</sup> (Friday)**

7.30pm St Mary's Church, Bedwyn. Concert: Trio York  
(violin, cello, piano). £14 (members £12. Children free.  
870970.

### **20<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)**

9.30am-12noon Town Hall. Gardening Club Plant Sale.  
Entrance free.

### **21<sup>st</sup> (Sunday)**

8am Marlborough Common. Car Boot Sale in aid of Wilts  
Air Ambulance Appeal. Cars £8, Vans £10 (payment on  
the day). 526928.

### **24<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)**

7pm Town Hall. Live from RSC: 'Antony & Cleopatra'.  
£15 in adv, £17.50 on door.

7.30pm Town Hall. Film: 'Sully'. £5 in adv, £6 on door.

### **26<sup>th</sup> (Friday)**

St John's Academy: Last day of Spring Term

### **27<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)**

Marlborough College: Start of Half Term.

# The Passion of Boy Scout Mazen: Raik Jarjis

---

*"My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" (see article on page 13)*

There is a place for forests in western history and folklore as silent witnesses to events and tales. Further east, the forest of predominantly eucalyptus occupies an area between the ruins of ancient Nineveh and the river Tigris in northern Mesopotamia, (Mosul, Iraq). This forest has once witnessed echoes of resonating calls of happy young boys during a spring day in 1960. In addition, the Mosul's forest has most recently, in December 2016, relayed the sounds of war as the Iraqi army and allies swept across the east bank of the Tigris to drive out the Jihadists of the Islamic State.



*Mazen is first on the left*

We now have to go back in time in order to note that the resonating voices of fifty six years ago were those of the boy scouts of the Al-Tahira, (Arabic for The Immaculate), Syrian Catholic primary school for boys. They were on this specific day setting up their camp within the forest when the air was dry and warm and the earth already parched and dusty. Here a particular congenial boy called Mazen was experiencing wonderful time with his school friend Raik; and he was proud of wearing the khaki scout's uniform and the matching "Sidara" hat. The camp setting also boosted his satisfaction by complementing his achievement as member of the team responsible for the Thursday school assemblies of Rafa Al-Alam, (Arabic for Raising of the Flag).

And as the sunlight met the morning dew on this spring day of 1960 Mazen, dressed in his scout's outfit, rushed to school. There the boy scouts filed in twos and marched south past Bab Al-Nabi, (Arabic for Prophet's Gate), then east along Nineveh Street towards the metal bridge, called Jisr Al-Ateek (Arabic for Old Bridge), which was erected by the British some thirty years earlier. Mazen was marching beside his friend Raik past the building of Al-Baladiya, (Arabic for Local Council), before crossing to the east bank of the Tigris. But as the platoon approached the bridge Mazen was oblivious to the many traditionally dressed Arab onlookers in the vicinity of the busy and noisy area of Bab Al-Jisr, (Arabic for Bridge Gate). Mazen was then preoccupied by discussing some intricacies of the scout's whistle.

*Continued on the next page*



## FROM THE REGISTERS

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### **Baptism:**

4<sup>th</sup> December – Florence Walker at St Mary’s

16<sup>th</sup> April – James Barr at St George’s

23<sup>rd</sup> April – Shane Alexander Hartop, Leo Kasper Hartop and Ronnie Michael Thomas White-Jowdie at St Mary’s

### **Departed:**

8<sup>th</sup> March – Polly Rose Whiting (98) of Highfield Residential Home, Marlborough

*St George’s and Kingsdown Crematorium*

24<sup>th</sup> March – Lily Winifred Smith (88) of Flat 10, The Green, Marlborough  
*Marlborough Cemetery*

28<sup>th</sup> March – Brian Aubrey Harrison (80) of 24 Priory Court, Marlborough  
*West Wiltshire Crematorium, Semington*

As you read these words the route of the scouts’ platoon through west Mosul lies in ruins as it was the front line against the Islamists in March 2017. It should be also pointed out that the Christian communities of Iraq have existed since the early centuries of Christianity. In addition, some of their surviving monasteries date back to the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD, long before the emergence of Islam in Arabia. However, they have been under the yoke of Islam and the Ottoman caliphate for many centuries. The November 1914 Ottoman call for Jihad was instrumental in the well documented 1915 genocides of the Christians of Armenia and northern Mesopotamia, (Iraq). One century later, sustained attacks on churches, plus murders, kidnaps and threats by jihadists and collaborators are driving the remaining Iraqi Christians away from their homeland. Moreover it is anticipated that the region is set to continue harbouring ideologically radical forms of Islam for the foreseeable future.

*Let us pause in life's pleasures and count its many tears,*

*While we all sup sorrow with the poor;*

*There's a song that will linger forever in our ears;*

*Oh! Hard times come again no more*

From *Hard Times Come Again No More* by Stephen Foster (1854)

# Marlborough Churches Together

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*Please check pages 26 and 27 for special services and events.*

## **Usual Sunday Service times**

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### **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 (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: 10.00am

**St George's** Tea Time followed by Evening Prayer: 4.30pm Weds.

# Marlborough Church Contacts

---

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## Marlborough Gardening Association



**PLANT SALE**  
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# Environment vs Energy: Raik Jarjis

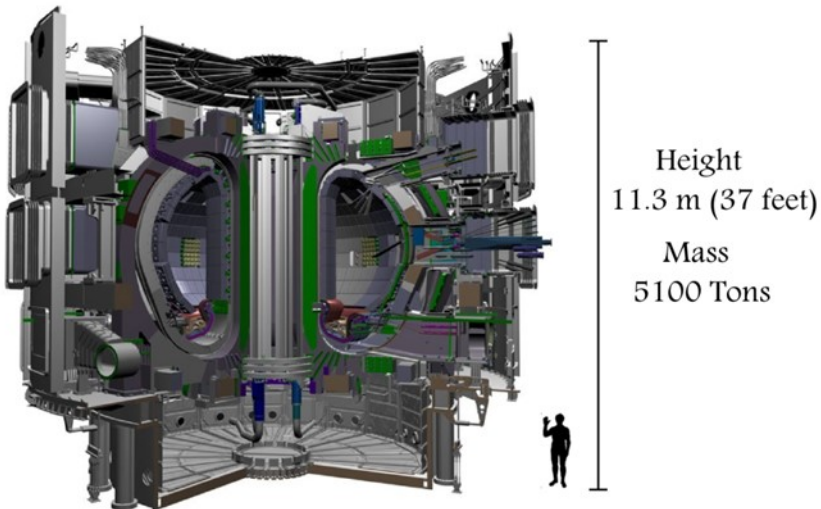
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Life on earth is critically tuned for energy usage, and human bodies are programmed to capture and store energy in order to create order. In fact our bodies burn prodigious amounts of energy to generate about 10,000 times as much energy per gram as the sun. The sun is hotter only because it is much bigger. The energy balance is further tuned by the clouds which act as a global heat shield. Without them, the sun would obliterate life.

We use energy to create and maintain intricate cellular and bodily complexity, just as we do in the economy, where the harnessing of power from burning fuel enables us to build our civilisation. This powering of our civilisation has been achieved primarily through the burning of hydrocarbons. However, rising environmental concerns are prompting us to develop renewable sources of energy. In fact we have already made some progress in globalising solar and wind energy generation plus somewhat managing emissions from hydrocarbon sources. On the other hand the new world for balanced energy generation and environment concerns is not as straightforward as it seems.

We are currently at the cusp of the new world of intercontinental renewable energy generation, plus advanced transmission and storage of electricity, that will render many familiar energy technologies obsolete. In addition, a quantum leap could also be realised beyond the middle of this century; and that is of realising

## ITER Tokamak Fusion Reactor



commercial power generation by nuclear fusion, (not fission). Over forty years ago I and some other international nuclear physicists were researching properties of the nuclear reactions that power our Sun. These reactions can be accompanied by the emission of energy, and they proceed by fusing the atomic nuclei of light elements, such as hydrogen. Our aim was to lay foundations for harnessing the processes on earth for generating electricity using different types of hydrogen, (isotopes), as fuel. Therefore, I am pleased to let you know that we are now getting closer to this Holy Grail, with an operating Joint European Torus testing facility at the Culham Centre for Fusion Energy, (Oxfordshire), and the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor, (ITER), under construction in the south of France. The technological challenges are still enormous but nuclear fusion would be a game changer for life on planet earth due to its fuel abundance, mainly sea water, plus its minimum environmental effects.

These technological advances should not distract us from the time scales for environmental changes. According to David W Keith and Gernot Wagner of the University of Harvard, “even if the world were to cut emissions to zero tomorrow, global temperatures and sea levels would rise for decades. If our roll of the climate dice is unlucky, they could rise for centuries. It is in this context that some climate researchers have begun to reluctantly take seriously ideas first proposed in the 1960s: the possibility of using solar geoengineering to help restore the world’s climate, alongside aggressive actions to reduce greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions to zero and below”. I must here draw your attention to the fact that solar geoengineering is highly controversial as it involves spraying sun-reflecting chemicals into the atmosphere.



*Marlborough Passion  
Play 2017*

The Sermon on the  
Mount



# Family News compiled by Audrey Peck

---

**Katie and Sophie Walker** were very pleased they were able to have their daughter, Florence May, baptised in St. Mary's church on December 4th 2016. Katie is the granddaughter of the late May and Ron Greenaway. She was brought up in Marlborough until she went to university in Plymouth and made her home there, but she wanted Florence to have a connection with Marlborough, starting off with her baptism. They would very much like to thank Henry Pearson for conducting an amazing service for Florence, a day that they will always remember with much love. The very proud godparents to Florence were Tracy Plenderleith, Daniel Claridge and Robyn Cusack.

**Ray Curtis** died in January. His family came here from Kent and lived in the temporary accommodation on the Common before settling down in St. Margarets Mead. He and his five sisters and four brothers went to Marlborough schools. His first job was with Hilliers the builders in the yard behind Café Nero. He became a skilled bricklayer. He met his German wife, Erika, when she was a waitress in the Merlin Hotel. They married in 1962. He became self-employed in 1980 and built houses including his home in Elcot Lane in 2000. Ray enjoyed playing golf with friends and watching rugby. I remember him as a good friend to Alan Newman and Bill Harris in the months before they died. Our sympathy to Erika and their family, Sue, Caroline, Donna and Michael.

St. Mary's was full for the Thanksgiving Service for the life of **Janet Snelgrove**. Geoffrey was well supported by his sisters-in-law Jill and Jo, brother-in law, and his many nephews and nieces who had been such a big part of Janet's life. She and Geoff came to Marlborough in 1972, joining the congregation of St. Mary's. Lay Pastoral Assistants and other friends from the church and all the groups Janet had served so well, the Gardening Club, the Jubilee Centre, Crofton Pumping Station volunteers, Friends of Roundway Hospital, Friends of Savernake Hospital and Freemasonry. The Mayor and six former Mayors of Marlborough and many life long friends went to the Town Hall to share memories of Janet, whose lovely welcoming smile we shall never forget. Barak Obama said of Ubuntu (at Nelson Mandela's memorial), inter alia, "that we achieve ourselves by sharing ourselves with others and caring for those around us". That sums up Janet. Sadly Geoff's two sisters were unable to come as they are both very frail. Geoffrey will be in our thoughts as he adjusts to life without Janet.



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# New World by Design: Nemat Jarjis

---

The articles by Jonathan Leigh and Steve Wain highlight the passion many of us have about shaping the future of education. In addition, a recent experience of mine shows that with primary focus on student development we could still launch initiatives for delivering positive outcomes.

Motivated by the new world theme I would like to report that on the morning of 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017 Mr Mike Fellows, Managing Director of Mercedes Benz Swindon, proudly unveiled a special edition of the “Smart” car. The body panels of this one off product exhibited a multi coloured world map that stands for diversity and closeness, an inspiring theme for a utopian new world. I must also add that the occasion was special for me too because it was a culmination of a partnership I set to bring about mutual benefits for Swindon College and Mercedes Benz.



Mercedes Benz management judged the design proposals submitted by my twelve IT students responding to the specially devised “Smart” car challenge; and the World design was the winner. In addition, I am pleased that my group of students have gained greatly from exposure to an actual working environment, dealing with a real problem, and participating in a competition.

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*Marlborough Passion  
Play 2017*

Jesus on trial before  
Pilate



# NEWS from the Churches

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## 7<sup>th</sup> May Janneke's Farewell Service.

Janneke's final 10.00 am service of her curacy in Marlborough was on Easter Sunday and she started her new post at Marlborough College on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April. However she will return for a farewell Team Service on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 10.00 am in St Mary's to which all are welcome; followed by a bring-and-share lunch in St Mary's. There are sign-up sheets for finger food contributions in our churches.



## 14<sup>th</sup> May Christian Aid Service at St George's, Preshute at 10.00am.

All are welcome to the annual CA service, with visiting speaker Elizabeth Perry.



Originally a research scientist in Immunology, Elizabeth has been writing, creating resources, campaigning and speaking on global poverty and justice issues for over 15 years. She was World Development Representative for Bath and Wells Diocese. She currently runs the Anglican Alliance's *Agents of Change* programme.

Elizabeth will be bringing some of her photographic cards to sell after the service, part of her personal fundraising for Christian Aid.

**21<sup>st</sup> May is Aldersgate Sunday** in the Methodist tradition, commemorating the time when John Wesley, feeling particularly low, attended a meeting of the Moravian church in Aldersgate, London and recorded that he found his heart 'strangely warmed'. The preacher at the 10.30 service that morning is **Susan Bothamley** and there will be an informal worship service at 6pm.



## 25<sup>th</sup> May Ascension Day Service

The Deanery Ascension Day Service will be held at 7.30pm in St Mary's. Revd Steve Henderson, the Chaplain at Great Western Hospital, will preach.

## 28<sup>th</sup> May Celebration of St Mary's Service

A special Service to celebrate the completion of the re-roofing, lighting, repairs and redecoration of St Mary's Church, will be held at 10.00am. The Rt Revd Edward Condry, Bishop of Ramsbury, will officiate and preach at the service. All welcome.

## Women's Fellowship Tuesdays at 2:45pm in Christchurch:

We welcome the following speakers to our meetings:

May 2<sup>nd</sup> Rosie Beal,

May 23<sup>rd</sup> Kate Trowbridge,

May 9<sup>th</sup> Rev. Heather Cooper,

May 30<sup>th</sup> No Meeting

May 16<sup>th</sup> Tricia Cavill (quilting),

## Sunday Lunch Club

Takes place on **May 7<sup>th</sup>** at the Wesley Hall, Christchurch at 12.15pm. To book a place, please ring the office on 513701 by the 5<sup>th</sup> May. Cost £7.50

## Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group (MAPAG)

Meet on **Monday May 8<sup>th</sup>** at the Friends Meeting House at 7.30pm. All welcome.

## Book Group

Are meeting on **Thursday May 11<sup>th</sup>** at Mustard Seed, 7.30pm when they will be talking about Beth Moran's novel *The Name I Call Myself*. It's an easy read novel with some perceptive insights. Copies can be purchased from Mustard Seed (511611). All are welcome



## Marlborough Churches Together

The fraternal meets on **Monday May 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Please contact a member of your clergy for any issues you would like raised. Dates of events can be found at : <http://marlboroughchurchestogether.uk/mct/>

## Hangout@Devotion



for 11-17 years on Thursday evenings. Free entry, from 7pm-8.30pm in the Wesley Hall, Christchurch.

**Any Time** - for young people aged 10 - 14. Meets each Sunday (apart from the first Sunday of the month) at 4.30pm at Christchurch and moves to St Mary's Church to join the 5.30pm Informal Worship service. Contact Blayze White: 07393 415204 youthworkermarlborough42@gmail.com.

## Filling Station

The speaker at the meeting on **Wednesday May 24<sup>th</sup>** is Ken Ford. Ken has recently moved from Shaftesbury to join the life of Highworth Community Church. He preaches regularly there and is a man dedicated in his pursuit of God.



Filling Station meets at MSM Junior School (St Peter's) in The Parade at 7.30pm.

## Pentecost

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit as described in Acts and the birth of the Church will be celebrated in our churches on **Sunday June 4<sup>th</sup>**.



## Travelling Lightly

is the theme for the **St Non's Retreat** in lovely Pembrokeshire this Autumn. Led by Sarah Musgrave it will be from **12<sup>th</sup> September to 15<sup>th</sup>**, and **not** 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> as stated last month. (A 'senior moment'!) Book now on 512205.



# 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 June issue by 9th May please.

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