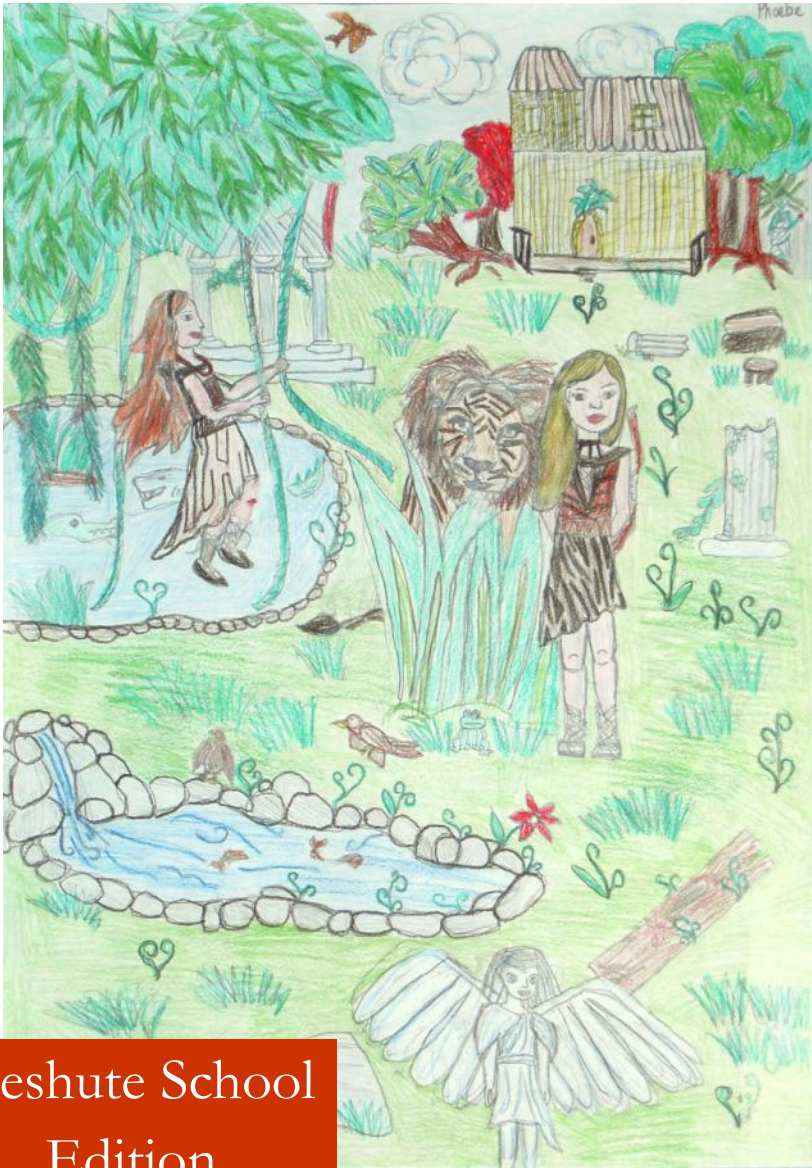

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Preshute School
Edition



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TOWER^{AND}TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

NUMBER 655 DECEMBER 2015/JANUARY 2016



Preshute Primary School

We were delighted to be asked to contribute to the Christmas and New Year issue of Tower and Town. It has given our Year 6 children a wonderful opportunity to share some of their fabulous writing with a wider audience. Their writing has developed from the theme of endings and beginnings to suit the time of year and shows a depth of thought along with an impressive command of language.

Since the start of term we have been studying the world of the Ancient Greeks and we have delved into some of the myths and characters from that time. This led the children to write their own creation myths, allowing their imaginations to explain how some of the most fascinating aspects of our natural world might have begun. Again, the emotions of the characters we uncovered inspired our wonderful pupils to pen their own poems.

We hope that you will enjoy this celebration of our oldest pupils' writing and understand why we are justifiably proud of them. As the year draws to a close may I take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Celia Hicks, Head Teacher

Compiler's note: The contributors are aged 10 or 11.

Front Cover by Phoebe

How the World Began by Douglas

Clouds. Everywhere. Thunderclouds, lightning and thunder. That was all there was in the beginning. Apart from one great volcano, vaster than could be imagined. From that volcano there came a deafening roar. Yet it wasn't a real roar. Just the great dragon, lord of all, dreaming.

Lightning crackling around him, thunder rumbling like a caged beast, though what beast could make such a noise was beyond imagining; the serpent wove his way through chaos, seeking anything that might happen to be in front of him. He believed his search was hopeless; never mind a needle in a haystack, a needle in a barn was about right, yet he had a suspicion even that would be easier than this search. Defeat though, was not a word well known to the serpent, so he relentlessly searched, often stopping to try and create something, although it was forbidden. This was just another day for the serpent. After all, he was only a mere slave, created for the comfort and humour of the great dragon. Suddenly, he felt woozy. So, so woozy...

Coming back round, the serpent shook off the after effects of the shock. Still he did not know what caused these black-outs. They often left a ringing in his ears. This was no exception. Yet never before had he seen something on awaking; so why now? Intrigued, he slid forward. A grand sight greeted him. A great fountain, made entirely from diamonds stood before him. The bottom was of mother of pearl, a perfect contrast to the black pearls inlaid along the rim. All of this fascinated the serpent, but equally so did the crystal clear water gushing from the spout on top. Naturally, he drank some. And what amazing water it was.

With the water trickling down his throat, a door opened in the mind of the serpent, what had once been dark was now light. So, concentrating very hard, the serpent brought light into existence.

Waking, the dragon fluttered his eyelids. It was so strange to see the light after so long sleeping. The light! Suddenly, the dragon leapt up, flexing his mighty wings, rolling round on his broad shoulders and whipping his tail round in a maddened frenzy. That impudent serpent would pay. How dare he do such a thing. Only *he*, the great dragon could create anything. Only *he*, should have the knowledge to do so. A roaring inferno escaped his mouth as he soared over the lip of his volcano. Finding the serpent would be easy. After all, he was just a mere slave.

Upon his finding the serpent, the full fury of the dragon was unleashed. Lightning crackled, striking the serpent over and over again. The serpent continually begged for mercy; his pleas finally reached the ears of the dragon. He decided to temporarily alleviate the pain. Cringing in fear of the dragon's wrath, the serpent racked his brains for something to say. One word kept on coming back to

him, 'Blazdragt'. What could it mean? What could it mean? Well, what harm could it do to say it? There was no way this predicament could get any worse. So, he intoned that one word; that single, powerful word, 'Blazdragt'. The dragon stiffened. His eyes took on a strange sheen.

Whilst in this trance, the serpent ordered him to let the waiting world out of his volcano. He knew that he had discovered the true name of his master and now he would be free. The barren rock erupted out of the volcano. The fire the dragon breathed then was a myriad of interwoven colours, bringing the earth into full bloom, with the greatest display of colours ever seen. The building blocks of life were created. Water bubbled up from underground. Tiny shoots sprouted and the world was truly, finally, born in all its glory.

Ever since then the serpent has ruled wisely over all, never letting anything go wrong. In time he would create animals, and us. But that's another story.

So that's how the world began; all thanks to one creature and one word. One amazing word.

Sadness by Emma

Sadness is an acrylic blue mixed with sorrow painted on a canvas,

It tastes like salt dissolving in your dry mouth.

It smells like smoke that's been drowned by the tears from your weeping eyes.

Sadness looks like a waterfall flooding your heart

And like the shadow of a dark cloud dispersing which was once filled with life.

It sounds like your heart, willing for happiness but a tide of water washes the joy out of your mind.

Sadness feels like a lump in your throat, exploding,

Begging you to cry.

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How the Sun was Made by Paige

Hundreds of years ago, when the world had just been created, there were as few as one hundred humans living on the earth. There was a moon but no sun so the world was plunged into darkness and was forever cold and miserable. This was how it stayed until an imprisoned firebird changed it all.....

One quiet day as Zeus was watching the depressed humans wander around on earth he had a sudden idea.

“Hermes!” he shouted, “Go to the Firebird’s prison and tell her I want a sun for my precious world.”

“Of course,” Hermes replied “I will leave immediately.”

As Hermes flew into the heart of the forbidden forest, the Firebird’s bewitching glow fell upon him.

“Firebird,” shouted the spellbound Hermes “Zeus demands you to create a sun.”

“Why should I?” replied the angered Firebird, “Because of Zeus I’m in this tiny cage with no one near for miles.”

“That is your entire fault because you tried to overthrow him by bewitching humans with your beauty.”

“Is it really my fault that anyone who looks upon me follows my every command?” the Firebird answered with tears in her eyes.

“I’ll make a pact with you then: if you make the sun, the gods will release you from your prison.” Hermes said regretfully. Quick as a flash the Firebird agreed. She asked Hermes to fetch a twig then she took one of her feathers and set it alight. The fire danced on the wood and it was so beautiful Hermes could have watched it forever. The Firebird told Hermes to take the flaming twig and fly with it to the top of Mount Olympus at exactly midnight. The time came and the flaming twig had been placed on the highest point in Greece. Suddenly, the twig grew and grew until it was a massive ball of fire and, then slowly, it started to rise and kept rising until one o’clock in the afternoon when the cold night began to creep back and the world was once again dark.

However it is said that if you are lucky enough, and careful enough you can see the Firebird dancing while she relights that little twig from the forest, day after day to give the World its light.

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How Humans were Made by Grace

One winter's day, when humans didn't yet roam, only four gods and their children walked the earth. When the children woke up they looked outside and to their delight there was snow falling thick and fast. Oliviarta, Poseidon's daughter, almost flooded the house with joy; Alexia, Persephone's daughter, wound her vines around most of the furniture and Elenia, Zeus's daughter, set her father's beard on fire! The gods shouted to the children, "Get out of this house right now!" and they ran out laughing with glee. Down in the underworld Hades' son, Jay, was getting ready to annoy the other children. Just before he left, his father bellowed after him, "Be very bad!"

Oliviarta, Alexia and Elenia started to build a snow woman. They made it as detailed as possible with a beautiful face, a stunning dress and petite shoes and feet. Breath-taken, Alexia whispered, "Wow," and Oliviarta cried tears of happiness. Dreamily, Elenia stared at it and noticed there was something missing. "Friends!" Elenia shouted, "She looks so lonely." So they spent another hour building a snowman with a loving heart and kind features. Meanwhile on the other side of the field Jay made a snow monster with grotesque features, stinky slime, pus-filled boils and a black heart. Unknowingly, Oliviarta exclaimed "I have an amazing idea: let's go and ask your father Elenia to make these snow creatures live"

Elenia nervously walked up to her dad and asked the important question! Her dad was furious. Quickly, Elenia sprinted away "Let's hide behind the snow man." Whilst they were crouched behind the snowman Alexia crafted a snow mirror and placed it in the snow woman's hand, not knowing what danger it would cause.

Zeus saw the snow lady with the snow man and was so angry that he tried to destroy them. He shot three massive bolts of lightning at them but instead of destroying the beautiful snow people the first bolt of lightning made man live and the second made woman come alive but then it all went wrong. The woman pulled out a mirror which the third bolt hit and it bounced the lightning to the other side of the field where it hit the monster which would bring pain, misery and death. Nobody noticed that third bolt.

"Wow," said Alexia, when she saw the effect of Zeus' power. Oliviarta called them Alisha and Tarman! So that's how humans were made by three excited children and Zeus but that monster also still lives on, leaving pain and anguish wherever he goes.

A Sea without Movement, a Sky without a Moon

by Ruby

It was after the creation, when the world was new and not yet perfect, when the gods of Olympus ruled over the mere mortals, and humans were helpless against their wrath, when no one would stand up to them, nor disobey them, except for one brave Athenian girl who created the moon to protect humans from the raving gods.

Ariana sat by the shore with her twin sister, Selene. They watched the still sea, with no tides nor movement, as it glistened under the night sky. Ariana was thankful to the mighty gods, so thankful that they had created such beauty and wonder in the world. She did, however, loathe the gods just as much as she was thankful, for mighty heroes cowered under their might. Every day she would see how people would be stranded in the sea and the god of the waters, Poseidon, would keep them captive.

Later that sunny day Ariana went into the great temple to pray, “Oh please mighty Poseidon, please save the boats stranded in the sea, carry them to safety!” She longed for him to listen to her prayer, to hear and act on it, but deep inside she knew he would be angry with her. Little did Ariana know that Poseidon *would* hear her call and *would* decide to act. However, it would not be in the way she hoped because she had dared question him.

The cool breeze ran through Ariana’s hair as she swam in the diamond waters. She swam slowly, savouring every second of it, for she rarely took this pleasure. Suddenly, Ariana jumped. Her movement was not coming from the sharp strokes of her arms; it was coming from deep below. A hand brushed against her foot, then grabbed it.

Ariana opened her eyes and realized that she had been knocked out by an almighty force. Her head throbbed but she could still see. She could see that she was under the sea and still breathing! She tried to kick up, but she knew that without an upward current this was impossible. Ariana screamed as a body of water came rushing towards her. Nothing happened for a split second until the body of water reached her and a gargantuan man emerged from the cover of the water.

“Poseidon!” thought Ariana. This was the work of the god of the sea.

“Ariana,” he resounded with a thunderous voice, like boulders grinding on stone. “You have dared to question me and now you will learn your lesson!”

Meanwhile, on the mainland Selene searched the shores for her sister. She wept as she did for she knew that Ariana had probably drowned having been gone for the best part of the day. Then, she saw something out of the corner of her eye. Far

out, just at the edge of her vision, an astounding body of water raced towards a limp object. ‘Ariana!’ thought Selene in panic. Tears welling up in her eyes, she realised it was Poseidon, and - he had Ariana! Selene, overcome with anger, decided that she needed something massive to move the waters and free her beloved sister. To do that, she needed another god and cried out for help.

Artemis came down from the mountains with a golden stag by her side and she ran to the sea. Her call had been heard. Artemis moved with such grace and power, power that Selene needed. “Great Artemis,” Selene bowed. To be in the presence of a goddess was beyond her imagination, and yet, here it was happening. “As protector of young girls, will you help retrieve my sister? She... she is trapped in the sea with Poseidon.” Artemis agreed to help, and Selene told her the plan.

Ariana was crying, Poseidon taunting her as he had been for hours. She had lost track of time and all hope that anything could help her. Suddenly Ariana looked up to see a shining ball of white light, the moon, and as soon as she saw it, the water started to shift. Currents formed and tides grew, the stranded boats were saved and so was Ariana. The currents pulled her in and she felt hard land under her feet and everything was right. Selene was waiting for her, “I did it Ariana, *we* did it,” Selene smiled. She told Ariana that with the help of Artemis the moon had been created and that it would forever be a symbol of bravery. The moon had saved the lives of many, and the girls knew that it would continue this way for all eternity.

And that is exactly what it did. Today we still live under the light of the moon and it still saves us, still creates the tides which carry us home. The moon will always remind us of Selene and Ariana’s bravery, as it is *their* faces imprinted on the moon.

Confusion by Finn

Confusion is multi-coloured,

Like a glittering rainbow shining uniquely up in the sky.

It tastes like jumbled jelly beans, where no one knows which flavour you’ll get.

The essence is like different perfumes all mixed into one bowl.

Confusion is a jigsaw puzzle and you don’t know where the last piece goes.

It sounds like millions of random voices,

Screeching at you like wild monkeys in a cage.

The feeling is like stars rapidly exploding in your head.

A New Sky, a New World by Izzy

When the world was only young, there was no sun. No daytime – just a dark, wintry phase where there were neither shadows nor a hot day. Can you imagine a time with no heat whatsoever? Well, it was all like this until Stella and Tarquin were introduced to the story.

One fine evening in the dark lands of Pompeii was a tiny village, which was entirely made from wood. In that insignificant old village lived a girl who had muddy brown eyes and gently hanging, brown locks, called Stella. On that first evening Stella met a soldier, who was called Tarquin when he was collecting the tariffs for the King. Tarquin had ocean blue eyes and a slick blonde quiff.

The next day, the King of Pompeii, who lived in a magnificent palace dangerously near to the volcano, was assassinated by a squad of soldiers. When this happened, it made the volcano, which was like a son to the king, very angry, and it rumbled and grumbled, shaking the whole city. It didn't erupt – it was just warming up. Soon after this happened, Stella, who was bored to death, chose to investigate and so she set off for an intriguing quest to the volcano with her head held high.

After she'd ventured past the palace of the assassinated King, she found a man who was hunched up, knees towards his chin, against the back wall of the palace sobbing.

“Excuse me,” Stella was asking, “Are you alright?”

“Si, amigo!” the man replied.

“English?” said Stella.

“Yes. Sorry, I'm Tarquin.”

“Tarquin the soldier?”

“Yes that's me, how did you know?”

“I'm Stella!”

“Stella?” questioned Tarquin, and he moved towards her.

She took a step back and explained her quest to him. As he regarded her, he decided he needed to protect her - she was only a young child after all, and they both journeyed towards the volcano, hand in hand.

When they reached the volcano, Tarquin took a stone from his pocket and threw it toward the mountain. It rumbled and grumbled even more and it burped a grey and black throbbing cloud. The volcano towered above them, covered in a coat of snowy mist. It had been an exhausting, tiring journey and soon there was sweat dripping from both of them as they trekked up the rocky, shuddering volcano side. They were both determined to complete the quest and Tarquin knew that Stella would never give up.

A few minutes later, as they reached the rim of the volcano, Tarquin threw off

his soaking wet coat and dropped it into the burning lava. He watched it sizzle like bacon, but then it caused the volcano to erupt!

Tarquin and Stella panicked as lava burning rock ejected out of the volcano and landed on their homes below. It set all the buildings on fire and they watched as people came rushing out from their home, clutching children and precious belongings, heading for the boats in the harbour. Because of all the flames, the fire reached higher and higher towards the sky – until it reached a sudden halt. The fire soared up to the sky and was spreading itself all over. The flames shaped themselves into a circle and started burning the sky.

When the volcano finally died down, the circle in the sky was still blazing, lighting up the whole world with its presence. It was forever aflame and could never burn away; it became the sun, never to be extinguished.

Fear and Hope by Penny

Fear is a purple, slowly darkening by every second
And tastes dry and musty like crumbling dirt.
It smells of smoke blocking your nose and making you cough,
It looks like people being stabbed and bleeding out their pain,
It sounds like chalk scraping on a blackboard piercing your ears,
It feels as if someone is crushing your ribs,
But hope is always around the corner...

Anger and Love by Jorge

Anger is a bloodshot red in a bull's eye ready to face his challenger,
It tastes like an intense inferno burning the back of your throat,
A smell of thick smoke enveloping your body, blinding your way,
Anger looks like a rhino stampeding to defend its young,
The sound of an erupting volcano endlessly regurgitating scalding lava.
Anger has the feel of a kick in the back side bruising your spine,
But lurking in the dark, love can overthrow anger,
Extinguish the flames.

Love by Sophia

Love is deep red that envelops you in your dreams,
It tastes like toffee lingering in your mouth,
It smells like chocolate filling your mouth with warmth and comfort.
Love is the sound of birds singing in a tree,
And finally, love is like a warm hug from your favourite people.

Happiness by Elena

Happiness is a blazing yellow like the sun,
And tastes like a block of chocolate melting on your tongue,
It smells like a bunch of flowers,
And looks like a million people smiling at you for hours,
It feels like a worry gone.....



Kennet Valley Arts Trust



Films and Theatre

Thursday 3rd December: Marlborough Town Hall at 7.30pm
'Far from the Madding Crowd' (12A)

Tuesday, 8th December: Marlborough Town Hall at 7pm.
Live from The National Theatre: 'Jane Eyre'

Thursday, 17th December: Marlborough Town Hall at 6.30pm
The Royal Ballet's 2009 production 'Nutcracker'

Thursday, 28th January 2016: Marlborough Town Hall at 7pm
Live from The Donmar Warehouse: 'Les Liaisons Dangereuses'

Tickets on line from www.kvat.co.uk, or from The White Horse Bookshop or Sound Knowledge. Also tickets at the door for films.

Clergy Letter by The Revd Dr Janneke Blokland

Christmas and the New Year

Christmas starts with Christ is a campaign to help churches to put the birth of Jesus back at the centre of today's Christmas celebrations. Looking at this campaign, it made me wonder: should the birth of Christ be at the centre of our celebration of Christmas? That may be a rather controversial question to ask for someone in my position, so let me explain.

In his final Christmas sermon as Archbishop of Canterbury in 2012, Rowan Williams said: "Here is something so extraordinary that it interrupts our world; here is something that – like Moses in the story of the Burning Bush – makes you 'turn aside to see', that stops you short. Faith begins in the moment of stopping ... the moment when you can't just walk on as you did before ..."

The Christmas story is only going to be the extraordinary story interrupting our world and lives, if it is told from the perspective of the crucified and risen Christ, if it is told as an Easter story, so to say. The nativity story, the story of a baby born in a stable, will only make us turn aside to see if it is told as part of the whole story of God and His people.

How can we do this? How can we tell the Christmas story in a way that is relevant yet radical? I would like to suggest that a way of doing this is by inhabiting the story: living it out by what we say and what we do.

So, when we do our Christmas shopping, we remind ourselves of the blessing of family, friends, and neighbours, and of the God-given gifts we have to share. When we cook our Christmas meal, we think of the abundance of God's creation, an abundance which we are invited to celebrate and share.

When we prepare for Christmas in this 'ordinary' way, trying to be aware of our part in God's story, we will experience moments so extraordinary that they interrupt our life. At these moments, I suspect, suddenly the relevance of the story of Jesus' birth becomes clear.

Because at Christmas we don't just celebrate God's birthday, but we are reminded of the greatest gift of all: God's giving of Himself, to become a human person like us, who was willing to die for us, and defeated death by rising to new life. That is the real essence of Christmas, and the real essence of our faith and lives.

Every blessing for Advent, Christmas and the New Year.

What's on in December/January

Regular events

Every Monday

7.30pm: Christchurch. Marlborough Choral Society.

Every Tuesday

10-11.30am: Christchurch. Friendship Club.

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

Every Wednesday *(or some Wednesdays)*

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

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

2-3pm: St. George's. TeddyPrayers & Picnic for under 5s and carers *(2nd & 4th Weds)*

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

Every Thursday *(or some Thursdays)*

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

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

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

Every Friday

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

Every 2nd Saturday

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

December calendar

2nd *(Wednesday)*

7.30pm: Wesley Hall, Oxford Street. WI. Christmas & 6th Birthday Celebration.

3rd *(Thursday)*

7.30pm: Town Hall. Film: 'Far from the Madding Crowd' (12A). £5 in advance, £6 on the door

4th *(Friday)*

10.30pm-12 noon: The Merchant's House. Christmas Coffee Morning. £5.

10.30am-12.30pm: Chiseldon Village Hall. Marlborough Downs: Space for Nature. Christmas Willow Wreath Workshop 1. £15. Booking essential 01225 718758.

1.30pm-4pm: As above, Workshop 2.

5th (Saturday)

12 noon: Wild River Reserve, Stonebridge. ARK: Bird Ringing. 511028.

2.30pm: Wiltshire Museum Devizes. Wilts Archaeological & Natural History Society.
Talk by Katy Whitaker: 'Wiltshire from Above'. £6.50 (£4 members). 01380 727369.

7.30pm: St Mary's Church. Marlborough Concert Orchestra. £9, £2 students. *See p 22.*

6th (Sunday)

7.30pm: St Peter's Church. Dodecantus Chamber Choir Christmas Concert, including Britten's 'A Ceremony of Carols' with harp accompaniment. *See page 19.*

7th (Monday)

12.30pm: Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. Embroiderers' Guild. Christmas Lunch.

8th (Tuesday)

7pm: Town Hall. Live from NT 'Jane Eyre'. £12 in advance, £17.50 on door.

9th (Wednesday)

12.30pm: 40 St Martins. Widows' Friendship Group Lunch. 514030.

7.45pm: Christchurch, Wesley Hall. Gardening Association. Talk by Maureen Hinton: 'Traditional Victorian Christmas Arrangements'.

12th (Saturday)

12noon-2pm: St Peter's Church. Ramsbury Silver Band Concert. Free entry.

2.30pm: Wiltshire Museum Devizes. Wilts Arch. & Nat. History Society. Talk by Phil Harding: 'Into the Spotlight: Confessions of a Flint Knapper'. £10, £8. 01380 727369.

7.30pm: St Mary's Church. Marlborough Choral Society Concert. £8. *See page 22.*

14th (Monday)

11am Ellendune Community Centre, Wroughton. Kennet DFAS. Lecture by Christopher Bradley: 'Three Wise Men, Gold, Frankincense & Myrrh'. 01793 840790.

7pm: Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. Kennet Valley National Trust Association.
Christmas Social with the Marlborough Accordion Orchestra.

7.15pm. Bouverie Hall, Pewsey. Pewsey Vale DFAS. AGM and Lecture by Hugh Elwood: 'The Lost Civilisation of Cambodia'. 07775 6831163.

16th (Wednesday)

Marlborough College end of Michaelmas Term.

17th (Thursday)

6.30pm: Town Hall. Recording from ROH 2009. Ballet: 'The Nutcracker'. £5, £3 children

18th (Friday)

St John's Academy end of Term 2.

8pm: Theatre on the Hill. Marl. Folk Roots: St Agnes Fountain in Concert. £19. 512465.

What's On, continued

January Calendar

4th (*Monday*)

St John's Academy start of Term 3.

5th (*Tuesday*)

Marlborough College start of Lent Term.

6th (*Wednesday*)

7.30pm: Wesley Hall. WI. Talk by Lucinda Bevan: 'Keeping Healthy Today'.

11th (*Monday*)

7.30pm: Bouverie Hall, Pewsey. Pewsey Vale DFAS. Lecture by Pamela Halford: 'Bristol's Banksy: Street Art?'.

13th (*Wednesday*)

12.30pm: 40 St Martins. Widows' Friendship Group Lunch. 514030.

7.45pm: Christchurch, Wesley Hall. Gardening Association. Talk by Debs Goodenough: 'History of Highgrove Garden'.

17th (*Sunday*)

3pm: Memorial Hall, Marlborough College. Concert: Tasmin Little (violin). £20, £10 (students). 892566.

18th (*Monday*)

11am: Ellendune Community Centre, Wroughton. Kennet DFAS. Lecture by Sue Jackson: 'Aristocratic St James's'. 01793 840790.

7.30pm: Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. Kennet Valley National Trust Association. Talk by John Farrow: 'The Cravens and Ashdown House.'

18th (*Monday*) to **30th** (*Saturday*)

Daytime: St Peter's Church. Marlborough History Society with Wiltshire Council. Photographic exhibition 'The First World War: Marlborough, the Wiltshire Regiment, and the home front across Wiltshire.'

21st (*Thursday*)

7.30pm: St Peter's Church. Marlborough History Society. Talk by Chris Rogers: 'James Wyatt - Genius or Charlatan?'.

23rd (*Saturday*)

8pm: St Peter's Church. An evening of fun and frivolity for this annual brain-teaser - table teams of 6-10 persons at £5 per person. Light snacks and cash bar. Book places by phone to David Du Croz (511725).

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FROM THE REGISTERS

Wedding

24 October Philip Mickelborough and Laura Whyte at St George's

Departed

9 October Peter Keith Ayers (87) of Castle Road, Great Bedwyn
Kingsdown Crematorium

14 October Lillian Rose Ford (92) of 19 River Park, Marlborough
St George's and West Wiltshire Crematorium, Semington

20 October Joan Elizabeth Cowley (84) of Orchard Garden, Purton
St Mary's and Kingsdown Crematorium

Family News compiled by Audrey Peck

Tony Gray is to marry the bridesmaid at his first wedding, in Royal Wootton Bassett on Nov 18th. Mary came to train as a nurse at Savernake in her teens and was a close friend of the late Mary Gray. Tony is well known to many as the proprietor of the famous Ducks Toy Shop, as Town Mayor in 1972 and again in 1990, and Chairman of Kennet District Council from 1984-7. It is good to see he has recovered from a recent illness and we wish them both a wonderful day and a long and happy marriage.

Wishing **Rosemary Spiller** happiness in her new home off the High Street. She says it is a very friendly community and a perfect situation for her family to visit.

Mary Claridge, Alec Light and I are very grateful for the essential help from our families in running the Car Boot Sales on the Common. We raised £5,500 during the year for the Air Ambulance.

Dr Lillian Ford died, aged 92, in October. She was an engaging character, had travelled widely e.g. Norway, Mexico, China, Alaska and Antarctica and was well informed on international affairs. She grew up in Seattle in the Great Depression, studied medicine, was a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science. After serving as a Lieutenant in the US Women's Army Corps in WW II she came to England as a paediatrician in London, Birmingham and Wiltshire. Her two brothers live in the USA but good friends supported her during her final year. Pauline and Roger Smith, near neighbours in River Park, were especially kind. Friends are celebrating her life at St. George's Preshute on Nov 18th.

At the thanksgiving service for **Joan Cowley's** life in St Mary's on November 12th friends and family remembered the practical, compassionate and fun loving person who had taken Marlborough to her heart about sixty years ago when she and David got married. Born near Rochdale her family moved to Swindon where she passed for the Grammar School and was rewarded with a new bicycle. She trained at Clacton-on-Sea, met David at a Scouting weekend and became a teacher at the Grammar School here. She loved family life and enjoyed her pets. We remember her organising Music and Movement for 3-5 year olds in the Church Hall but she had many interests and hobbies. She supported the Church of England Children's Society, and enjoyed caravanning, W.I., flower arranging, and sports. Our sincere sympathy to David, James and Helen. They would like to thank everyone who attended, and would like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped to arrange the service, making it a lovely way to say goodbye.

Kath Allright has died. She was a long standing and highly respected member of Christchurch. Our sympathy to her family and to Christchurch members. More about Kath in the next Tower and Town.

Angela & Paul Mc Grorty Trading as the

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Dodecantus Chamber Choir Christmas Concert

*Sunday 6th December at 7.30pm
St Peter's Church Marlborough*

A programme of Advent and Christmas songs and carols, featuring Britten's "A Ceremony of Carols" with harpist Katie McClaughry.

Conducted by David Ripley. In aid of St Peter's Trust

Cash bar. Nibbles and soft drinks provided.

Children under 16 half price.

*Tickets £10 (£8 for Trust members) by post to St Peter's Church,
or from David Du Croz 511725 du.croz@btinternet.com,
or David Ripley 513950.*

Marlborough Churches Together

Please check page 21 opposite for Christmas services, and pages 25, 26 and 27 for special services and events.

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 (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: 10.30 am Wednesday

St Thomas More Mass: 10.00 am Mon, Tues, Wed and Sat
Holy Days: 10.00 am

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

CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2015

**All the churches of Marlborough wish you a very
Happy Christmas and warmly invite you to worship with us.**

Sunday, 13th December

4.00pm Carol Service (St John the Baptist, Minal)

Sunday, 20th December

10.30am Carol Service (Christchurch, Marlborough)

4.00pm Carol Service (St Mary's, Marlborough)

6.00pm Candle-lit Carol Service (St George's, Preshute)

Tuesday, 22nd December

7.00pm A Quieter Christmas (St Mary's, Marlborough)

Christmas Eve – Thursday, 24th December

3.00pm Crib Service (St Mary's, Marlborough)

3.00pm Crib Service (St George's Preshute)

4.00pm Family Mass, Carols and Blessing of Crib (St Thomas More)

5.00pm Village Nativity - starting at The Horseshoe Inn (Minal)

9.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass, Carols 8.30pm (St Thomas More)

9.00pm Christmas in Bethlehem (SectionService, Pewsey Methodist)

10.00pm First Eucharist of Christmas (St George's, Preshute)

11.30pm Midnight Communion (St Mary's, Marlborough)

Christmas Day – Friday, 25th December

8.00am Holy Communion (St Mary's, Marlborough)

8.00am Holy Communion (St George's, Preshute)

9.00am Christmas Mass (Holy Family Church, Pewsey)

9.30am Family Communion (St John the Baptist, Minal)

10.00am Family Communion (St Mary's, Marlborough)

10.00am Family Communion (St George's, Preshute)

10.30am All Age Worship for Christmas (Christchurch, Marlborough)

10.30am Quakers' Meet (Friends' Meeting House, Marlborough)

11.00am Christmas Mass (St Thomas More, Marlborough)

Sunday, 27th December

8.00am Holy Communion (St Mary's, Marlborough)

10.00am Team Communion (St George's, Preshute)

10.30am Section Service (Christchurch, Marlborough)

11.00am Sunday Mass (St Thomas More, Marlborough)



Marlborough Concert Orchestra
Saturday 5 December 2015 7.30pm

St Mary's Church, Marlborough

Conductor Roselise Gentile **Leader** Edward Judge

Offenbach Tales of Hoffmann Overture
Koussevitsky Double Bass Concerto—**soloist David Heyes**
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NEWS from the Churches

For Carol and Christmas Services please see page 21 for the dates and times for the individual churches.

St Mary's Church will be hosting in December

3rd December	6pm	Beer and Carols
5th December	7.30pm	Marlborough Concert Orchestra
11th December	2pm	St Mary's Infant School Nativity
12th December	7.30pm	Marlborough Choral Society
15th December	6pm	Mencap Carol Service
17th December	7pm	St John's School Celebration
18th December	9.15am	St Peter's School Christmas Service



And at The Town Hall

13th December 7.30pm Macmillan Carol Service with KV Brass Band

Quiet Time During Advent: 7pm in St Mary's Church on 1st, 8th and 15th December followed by Compline at 7.30pm.

A Quieter Christmas Service: 7pm on Tuesday, 22 December in St Mary's. This service allows us to reflect through ministry, scripture and prayer, how God's word comes to shine light in to the darkest places of life. All welcome.

Monthly Sunday Seniors' Lunch Club

The Seniors' Lunch Club will be held on 13th December 2015 starting at 12noon in Christchurch. To reserve a place and to check on January 2016 Lunch Club date please contact the Church Office at Christchurch 513701 by 11th December.

Women's Fellowship All meetings at 2.45pm in Christchurch

December 2015	January 2016	February 2016
1st Eileen Gilbert	5th Epiphany	2nd Gillian Watson
8th Mike Kennedy (Prospect Hospice)	12th Members	(talk about the theme for the Women's World Day of Prayer)
15th Carols and mince pies	26th Father John Blacker	



Marlborough Churches Together

The next Fraternal Meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th January. Please contact Alison Selby (alison@crossmead.net) if you would like any issues raised.



NEWS from the Churches, continued

Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group (MAPAG)

Meets at The Friends' Meeting House on Monday 7th December with speaker: Colin Brady talking about homelessness.

Posada

Don't forget to look out for the Holy Family set travelling along the North side of Marlborough High Street and the three Kings travelling along the South side during December. The Holy Families will be brought together at the 3.00pm Crib Service on Christmas Eve in St Mary's.

Filling Station

For information about the December and January Filling Station at St Peter's School, Marlborough, please contact Vincent and Helen Stokes at hcstokes@gmail.com



Devotion Tuesday night youth club Hangout@TheMead

Hangout@TheMead

For 11-14s on Thursday evenings from 7pm-8.30pm in the Wesley Hall, Christchurch. Hangout@theMead for older children meets on Tuesday evenings from 6pm-10pm in the old Youth Club at The Mead. There is a desperate need for volunteers for our Tuesday night group. Volunteers would only need to commit to twice a term, all training would be provided; only an enthusiasm to help and a willingness to listen is required. More details from devotionyouthproject@hotmail.co.uk.

Epiphany Carol Service

Will be hosted by the Women's Fellowship on Tuesday 5th January 2016 at Christchurch, 2.45pm all welcome.

Book Club

Next meeting on Monday 11th January 2016 in Mustard Seed at 7.30pm. To discuss: 'A Drink of Deadly Wine' by Kate Charles. All welcome.

Methodist Covenant Service

The Covenant Service will be held at Christchurch on Sunday 3rd January at 10.30am. Christchurch will be having a Special Service on 31st January at 10.30am to start 12 months of celebrating 200 years of Methodism in Marlborough.



NEWS from the Churches, continued

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18-25 January 2016

Latvia is a crossroads where Roman Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox regions meet. Because of this unique location, it is home to Christians of many different traditions, but no single one of them is dominant. Gathered together by the Archbishop of Riga, members of a variety of church communities and projects in Latvia were asked to reflect on the chosen theme and the experience of their work. The main service is inspired by the verses from Peter's letter and Jesus' metaphors of salt and light which are important cultural themes for Latvia. Each of the days has been prepared by one of the diverse Church communities. The eight days are linked principally by the experience of being a Christian in Latvia. <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2016/>.

Diary Dates

Christian Aid Talk

9th February 2016 at 7.00pm in St Mary's Church with Rezwana Islam from Christian Aid Bangladesh who will be sharing first-hand experiences of working with the people featured in 2016 Christian Aid Week resources. Come along and hear stories of how your support is helping to transform lives in Bangladesh. Rezwana joined Christian Aid in 2013 after seven years of working for organisations within Bangladesh focused on social issues, health research, and the promotion of environmental justice. She joined Christian Aid to help continue to improve the lives of the poor and marginalized in Bangladesh.



'Finding God' Lent Talks 2016

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 24th February | 'Finding God in Music'
Rev David Miller, Methodist minister from Chippenham. |
| 2nd March | 'Finding God in the everyday'
Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum |
| 9th March | 'Finding God in the Sacraments'
Rev Father Christopher Whitehead STB, Director of the
Department of Adult Education and Evangelisation for the
Clifton Diocese |
| 16th March | 'Finding God in Silence!' - Harvey Gillman |

Kindly hosted by Christchurch at 7.30pm. More details on these events will follow in February's Tower and Town.

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<i>News from the Churches</i>	Alison Selby Crossmead, Kingsbury St, SN8 1HU	church.news@towerandtown.org.uk	511128
<i>Family News</i>	Audrey Peck 7 Castle Court, Marlborough SN8 1XG	family.news@towerandtown.org.uk	289065

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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 February issue by 12 January please.

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Tower and Town is available at St Mary's, Christchurch, St Peter's, Mustard Seed, and at St George's, Preshute.

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