

TOWER_{AND}TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES.

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Marlborough's Blue Plaques

Once again the Chairman has kindly offered space in this month's edition to be filled with writing by students at Marlborough College. Last year the students were inspired by photos they had taken around the High Street. This year each of the students was allocated one of the town's nine blue plaques. The plaques commemorate the link between notable figures of the past and the buildings in which they lived and worked. They also include memorable events such as the town's Great Fire in 1653 and King Henry III's signing of the Marlborough Statutes in 1267. The students were encouraged to research the history of our town and then unleash their imaginations by writing a creative piece linked to their given plaque.

The imagination and creativity of 14 and 15 year olds is both limitless and inspiring and I hope you enjoy these brief escapades into their recreations of Marlborough through the ages. I have thoroughly enjoyed discovering more about the town's history and many people I've discussed this project with have been surprised to hear that the town has nine plaques. I hope that this edition may also encourage you to go out and once more discover these plaques for yourself. You may even let your own imagination wander as you gaze at the plaque...

I feel, however, the final word should focus on the future rather than the past. The town's most recent blue plaque belongs to William Golding, who died 22 years ago. When will the next one appear? Whose name will it bear? Are they living in the town now? Do we know them? Could it be you?

Hugo Tilney, English Teacher, Marlborough College, *Editor*

The Battle of Marlborough: Larry Wyatt

The Prisoners' March

We were captives in chains; broken men in the town that we so proudly defended. Stranded, standing like fools in our own sweat, blood and filth. The smell of Royalist gunpowder filled my nostrils with a tingling sensation. The putrid scent of manure wafted in the air from horses tired from the fight. The metallic taste of blood lingered on my lips just as my saliva stung on my gums, broken and shredded. My searing, suffering wounds were seeping blood from my body. The blood, as if it was my pride, left me for dead. All I had now was my name. But that in the end was just going to be stripped from me and replaced with the cold, hard numbers of my cell.

The embers of the fire still remained. Our houses reduced to ashes in an inferno hotter than the depths of hell. The laughter of children silenced by the guns and the blades. They had charged upon the town from the north with their torches and muskets, swinging mercilessly with their swords. They were cold, ruthless killers, and now they stand here with their booming voices drowning out the clinking and clanking of our chains, weighing us down, our new companions made of metal.

We were in chains to Oxford. It would be to die fighting or to be imprisoned. The struggle was pointless. We were a chain gang marching with heads hung in sorrow. The leader of our town, now the leader of our march, was a man once revered as royalty reduced to a petty prisoner. Oh what had become of us, said criminals, but innocent in nature. We stood held under the enemy and the word of the unjust King. But remember this, and remember it for years to come. We fought for what was right. To free those from corruption and to give them voice and choice, so they too would do what was right.

(Following the Royalist victory many of the town's defeated citizens, including its Mayor, were taken to Oxford in chains).



Located at the Castle and Ball Hotel on Marlborough High Street

Eglantine Mary Jebb: Molly Corfield

The Child

'I'm going to town, Uncle James'. He looked up from his breakfast blankly and gave me a lost nod. 'It's a beautiful day. Would you care to join me?'

'Don't be absurd, Eglantine, you know I am teaching today'; with that he pushed back his chair, causing the hard stone of the kitchen floor to screech in protest. He retrieved his robes and made a swift movement to the door. Reaching out for the doorknob, he froze in mid air. 'I would appreciate it if you would have the dishes done on my return; the maid is absent today. You may visit the town after.' He forced a smile, failing to show a trace of warmth behind it, and was gone soon after. After cursing the cloaked back of his withdrawing form, I fetched my wicker basket. The dishes could wait until after I'd been shopping.

Gathering my skirts I strolled at a leisurely pace towards the High Street tilting my face to welcome the warm rays of the sun onto my chilly cheeks. Instinctively looking to the sky, I noticed the kites soaring contently, competitively. I resumed my usual gaze of awe and satisfaction, seeing the High Street unfold in front of me. The next moment changed my life forever. It was extraordinary and opened my eyes to the real world.

At first I walked straight past her but the scorching hatred of her stare burnt into my back so fiercely that I had to turn to see what had caused me this violent shock. It was a ragged little girl with grubby tear-stained cheeks, her clothes tattered and dirty and her hair matted and unkempt. Her eyes were fixed on me. But soon after, the hatred was gone, replaced by innocence, pain and pleading. The look in her eyes pulled at my legs; I was cautious but obeyed and walked to her. It was then that I was her. I viewed the passers-by with her eyes. No one showed any interest. The passers-by were too interested in their own lives. It was my turn to care now. And it was my turn to make a change to the world. To Save the Children.



Located on the library (formerly St Peter's School) in the High Street

The Lord Chamberlain's Men: Emily Symington

The Mysterious Visitor

It was a sharp January evening. A velvety silence folded the town of Marlborough into sleepy content. In the distance a cloaked figure walked brusquely down a shadowy alleyway. He stopped at an inn, lit softly by a buttery glow of a street lamp. A leaflet was pinned to the door:

“The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, to be performed here at the White Hart Inn tonight by the Lord Chamberlain’s Men, featuring Richard Burbage as Hamlet.”



Located in Russell Square

The figure smiled surreptitiously and pushed open the polished oak door. The inn was filled with raucous laughter mingled with the musty smell of ale and tobacco. Several men were slumped against the bar, a pipe at their teeth, winking at the blushing barmaid.

The play was in full swing but the muffled conversations were stopped abruptly as Richard Burbage took centre stage. The barmaid scowled as the men turned to face the stage, slopping their ale across the table. In the corner the cloaked figure tensed, his hood still raised.

Burbage cleared his throat before throwing out an arm:

“To be or not to be - that is the question...”

The unknown visitor closed his eyes and let out a strangled sigh of irritation. Not again Burbage, he thought. However many times they rehearsed that opening line, Burbage always managed to swallow the first few words. Was it so hard to enunciate?

But as the speech continued the cloaked figure relaxed. He took a chair near the back of the inn and watched Burbage. Maybe he would keep him, he thought. After all, it was only those first few opening words that he ever seemed to struggle with and was that really worth finding a new Hamlet for?

Time passed. At the close of the performance the bloodied Hamlet rose from the dead to take his bow and was met with much cheering and applause. The figure fastened his hood and turned to the door, his head bowed. In his haste he bumped into the surly barmaid as she collected the tankards.

“Watch yourself!” she snapped.

In the scuffle his hood fell and she turned to look up into his face.

“Oh Sir! Mr Shakespeare! I’m so sorry!”

Samuel Pepys: Lara Thompson

Diary:

June 15th 1668

Today I walked around this town of Marlborough, along the River Kennet. It is different to London; sweeter, calmer and a lot less crowded. It was pleasant and the town's folk seem simple but amiable. While I was walking the Marlborough Mound caught my eye. How majestic it was! How many tales of war and great fires it has. The High Street seems well restored from the fire and it is a beautiful town now. Their houses on one side having their penthouses supported with pillars, which makes it a good walk. It was a pretty fair town for a street or two, and it makes a pleasant change to other places I have been to.



Located on 114 High Street

June 16th 1668

Earlier today I spent some time up by Avebury. This historic feature fascinated me by its precision and stories behind it. A great ring of standing stones set with years and years of elements buried beneath it. It was a beautiful day and the sun shone casting shadows from the great towering stones. I admire the men who created such a magnificent artefact; this is the sort of piece that will survive for generations to come.

Tonight the Hart is bustling with custom and I find the street lit up by torches and market stalls that are still open for purchases. A local ale is required, I feel.

June 17th 1668

I had to travel back to London today and it was a long and tiring return journey. The sound of the repair work still rings out and scorched buildings still cast their shadow on this city. I am back at home but already I long for the fresh air of the countryside and my mind returns once more to the little town of Marlborough. I must return sometime soon.

The Great Fire of Marlborough: Celeste Spink

Redemption

It was getting hotter. I had tried warning our guard but they weren't going to listen to one of us. We were less than dirt in their eyes; Dutch scum. The Civil War had taken away any of our rights to humanity and the innocent town of Marlborough had been turned into our prison, where now we would slowly be roasted to death like forgotten vermin. The heat intensified; flakes of old plaster showered onto our heads powdering us with snow-like dust. Sixteen convicts on the highway to hell.

'Brand! Vlammen! Luister naar mij!' They didn't understand. But why wouldn't they listen? I could picture the fire licking against the wooden door with its scalding tongue. My countrymen jostled together, the panic bubbling behind their eyes. The temperature carried on rising, and now there was a noise and movement on the other side of the door.

Suddenly the guards burst in shouting things we only partly understood. The open door let in a weak sigh of wind as we were hurriedly herded out into what was by now dawn breaking over Hades. I instinctively crossed myself as I took in the scene. The beauty of the flaming town was unworldly. It was terror and danger laced with wonder, and as I looked around at my comrades I saw feverish fascination reflected in their flickering eyes.

The next moment a rusty bucket was thrust into my hand and the spell was broken. Adrenalin coursed through my blood and we sprinted towards our door to redemption as the skin melted from our faces, sweat streaming down our bodies. Now we fought for our freedom, in a foreign land whose inhabitants once scorned the very thought of us. Alone we would save this little town, or die in the process. Then all thoughts stopped as action took over, moving our bodies to an unknown rhythm.

(The Dutch Ambassador was invited to the dedication of this plaque in 1997 in recognition of the Dutch prisoners of war who were in the town at the time of the Great Fire and the heroic efforts made by them to rescue people).



Located on 41-47 High Street

The Statutes of Marlborough: Anna Pembroke

The King Is Coming

“COMING!” The frantic yell from the Jester echoed up the flight of stairs, the sound amplified by the thick stone walls that framed this chaotic picture. It was just one of the many panicked conversations that had taken place in the last hour since the sudden announcement that Parliament was to be held in Marlborough Castle the next day.

The gentle hustle and bustle of the castle had been usurped by panic. Everybody had their assigned tasks and even the guards (who normally spent their day at the gates quietly dozing) were fiercely alert and ready to grapple with any stranger that attempted to enter without authorisation. From the West turret of the castle, you could see the motte being dressed for purpose. The magnificent oak trees winced as they were reduced to jesters by serfs who draped their branches with patriotic flags.

Elsewhere, the picturesque garden, normally organised in neat rows of flowers and herbs, was pandemonium. There were scullery maids vying for the herbs that their dish required; pageboys who fought over flowers with the brightest colours; and the court poet roaming around with his quill. On his face, you could see the worry etched as he desperately sought inspiration for the approaching banquet.

Meanwhile, in the heart of the castle, a heated argument was taking place between the rugged gamekeeper and the overweight Cook: and neither was backing down:

“Arthur swore that LAST time, he liked the pheasants,” the gamekeeper said forcefully, stabbing his finger dramatically.

“Well Mary was saying that he likes pigs, and SHE was Eleanor’s attending maid at the wedding” the Cook yelled.

“You cannot serve him pork! There’s word that an important statute is being signed; and last time you cooked pork-”

“Are YOU insulting my cooking?!” shrieked the Cook indignantly.

After much discussion, the gamekeeper finally gave in. As day slipped into night the castle was still very much awake - and for good reason. The next day would mark the passing of the Statutes of Marlborough: one of the most iconic moments in this little town’s history.



Located on Marlborough College Gates

Short-Term Advertising in Tower and Town

As from this month, it will be possible to take out short term advertising in Tower and Town. If you, or anyone you know, are interested to place an advertisement on a single month or multi month basis, please contact
Andrew Unwin
Email address afunwin@yahoo.co.uk
Phone number 01380 860120.

Space for these short term ads is limited and needs to be booked at least three weeks in advance of the publishing date, so please enquire in good time.

Deputy Director, Volunteer, Marlborough Brandt Group

The Marlborough Brandt Group is heading in a new direction. The arrival of piped water and electricity supplies to Marlborough's linked community of Gunjur in the Gambia allows us to shift our focus to supporting new business start-ups and helping existing businesses there to grow.

In future our current director Nick Maurice will concentrate on supporting our business advisers and partners in Gunjur. This leaves a gap in our resources and opens up what we believe is a tremendously interesting and rewarding volunteering opportunity.

We are looking for a Deputy Director to work alongside Nick. Our ideal applicant is likely to be a self-starter with a background in management and with a real interest and / or experience in engaging with people of different cultures. If you have these qualities and could fit two rewarding days a week into your current commitments we would very much like to hear from you.

To find out more about this opportunity please go to www.mbg.org. For an informal chat about the position **contact the office 01672 861116**. Please send your **CV to Nick Maurice (nick@mbg.org) by 30th April 2015**.

Thomas Hancock: Charles Roche

On A Thursday Morning

He woke up the morning after, tired. His hands were worn and his mind blank and unfocused from the exhaustion of hours of work.

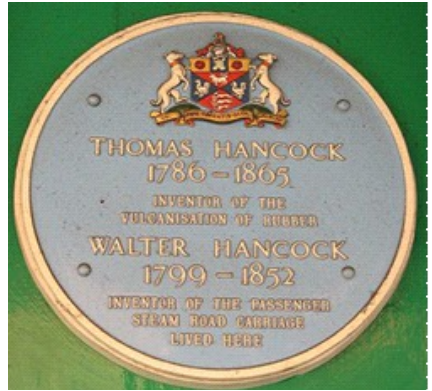
As he walked downstairs the fresh morning breeze blew the smells from his workshop to him. The mixed smells were overwhelming at first but by concentrating he was able to distinguish one that stood out: that of the big clay pot of sulphur that had its home on his work desk. Beyond that he could see the rubber saplings, which had been the

source of his experiments for what seemed like a lifetime. Stiffly he walked across to the centre of the workshop and, fully awake now, opened the oven.

He was greeted by a welcoming blast of warm air and a scent that he was the first ever to smell. He slowly picked up the product of his experiments - his life-changing discovery - and as he walked to the kitchen he looked back at the workshop that had been the home to so many failures and disappointments.

Having washed his hands, he made a cup of tea and proceeded to examine his creation further. It was a small rectangular block of soft, amber coloured, material that he could bend in different directions before it returned to its natural shape with a satisfying twang. He drained his cup of tea and gently placed it back on its saucer besides the block. He then crossed over to the latticed window and stood in the morning sun, warming his brow in thought.

A moment later and he rushed upstairs and got dressed into his Sunday best. He grabbed his coat, followed by his hat and gloves and marched triumphantly to the door. Outside the sunshine of the Thursday morning bounced gleefully off the little amber, life-changing, block that he tucked under his arm.



Located on 3 High Street

Thomas Wolsey: Checkie Hamilton

Flashback

I watched a mother wheeling a pushchair past the church. In the opposite direction an elderly couple walked hand in hand. I myself stood facing the pale blue plaque. I read it, over and over, engraving the words into my memory. The words ‘Ordained priest in this church’ stood out in particular. It struck me that I was standing in an important place, a place valued by history, valued by the man who began his religious journey right here.

Slowly my imagination drifted back to the scene of 10th March 1496. I heard the church bells celebrating the day. Flowers lined the walls surrounding the church. I watched people flowing into the church like a river. Wolsey’s family and friends chattered excitedly. A middle-aged man had wrapped his arm around a woman, whom I imagined to be Wolsey’s mother. She clutched a handkerchief to her mouth, muttering something inaudible to anyone but the man beside her. The bishop stood aside at the door and upon seeing the woman, took her hand in his and welcomed her warmly. She nodded respectfully to him before proceeding into the church. After a few minutes the flow of people became a dribble before stopping completely. The church fell silent as the service began.

I strolled around the church, picturing the brightly coloured bunting, dripping down from the houses, strung across the street. The town market was in full swing. A spring breeze ruffled through the trees. Before long, an excited chatter erupted like a volcano from inside the church. Then he appeared. I did not recognise him by sight but instinctively, I knew who he was. I stood, rooted to the spot as I watched Thomas Wolsey stroll around the church, side by side with the bishop. There was the man that would annul the first marriage of King Henry VIII.

Blinking, as if waking up from a deep sleep, I looked around at the modern world. I saw the shops with their calligraphic signs, cars bustling up and down the High Street, late schoolchildren hurrying to lessons. Once more I glanced up at the silent plaque and walked away, leaving its history behind me.



Located on St Peter's Church

William Golding: Oliver Ordish

Inspiration On The Green

I sat by my mahogany table and presented myself to the typewriter. I waited motionless for inspiration, staring at my industrial gunmetal machine.

Before long I began pacing around the living room glaring at the photos of Cornish landscapes. But it was no use. I was stuck. Stuck in a swamp and slowly sinking to my drowning death. I grabbed the nearest photo and smashed it on the wooden floorboard. As the echoes of the shattered glass faded, I saw a reflection of my distorted face in a fragment on the floor.

Why was this so stressful? I longed to write a novel that would last forever and speak to generation after generation. Maybe my father was right; I was never going to be the author I so wanted to be. Maybe I should just give up.

It was then when I heard the shriek of a child on the Green outside my window. “Go away! All of you!” I froze like a rabbit alerted to danger. Slowly I crept towards the window to see a circle of choirboys. At the centre a round boy with spectacles was shaking vigorously.

“What you gonna do about it? Pig!” roared a voice. The choirboys cackled and from nowhere erupted a chant: “Piggy! Piggy! Piggy!”

“That’s enough!”

A boy stepped into the circle. The choirboys paused; they seemed to respect him as if he was some kind of leader. He was handsome, strong and looked a couple of years older than the rest. The choirboys were silent and gradually dispersed towards St. Mary’s, leaving no one but their cruel-mouthed antagonist. He moved stealthily towards the spectacled boy’s rescuer, snarled, and spat at his feet.

Another moment and they were gone and I was left staring at Marlborough’s empty village green. I turned and returned to the now glistening typewriter on my desk and, as if in a trance, typed the words:

‘The boy with the fair hair lowered himself down the last few feet of rock and began to pick his way towards the lagoon.’



Located on The Green

What's on in March

Regular Events

Every Monday

7.30pm Christchurch. Marlborough Choral Society.

Every Tuesday

10-11.30am Christchurch. Friendship Club.

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

Every Wednesday

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

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

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

Every Thursday (or some Thursdays)

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

10.30am-12noon Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. Sing for the Brain. Alzheimer's Support Group. 01225 776481. (Every Thursday during term-time)

1.30-3.30pm The Bear. 'Talking about books'. Contact: 563480.

1.30-3.30pm Wesley Hall, Christchurch. Macular Society (last Thursday in 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.

March Calendar

- 1st (Sunday)** 10am-3pm. High Street. Marlborough Communities Market.
- 2nd (Monday)** 2pm Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. Embroiderers' Guild. Talk by Linda Monk: 'Creating Surfaces'. 861410.
- 4th (Tuesday)** 10am-12.30pm The Merchant's House. Lecture by Chris Rogers: 'Architecture: Inigo Jones: Followers & Contemporary Vernacular Houses'. Tickets from The Merchant's House £15 (Friends of MH £12).
7.30pm Wesley Hall, Oxford Street. Marlborough WI: AGM and Potluck Supper.
7.30pm Town Hall. Live from RSC: 'Love's Labour's Won'. £15 in advance, £17.50 on the door
- 5th (Thursday)** 7.30pm Town Hall. Film: 'Lucy' (15). £5 in advance, £6 on the door.
8pm Memorial Hall, Marlborough College. MBG Lent Lecture. Baroness Cox: 'The Pain and the Passion – the privilege of making a difference'.

- 8th (*Sunday*) 7.30pm KVH, Lockeridge. Film: 'The 100 Year Old Man Who Jumped Out of the Window' (15). 861373.
- 9th (*Monday*) 7pm Town Hall. Meeting of Marlborough Town Council and Planning Committee.
7.30pm Bouverie Hall, Pewsey. Pewsey Vale DFAS: Lecture by Janet Robson 'Let there be Light: Art and Beauty in the Middle Ages'. 07775 683163.
- 11th (*Wednesday*) 12.30-3pm 40 St Martins. Widows' Friendship Lunch. Pauline Berryman 514030.
7.30pm Town Hall. Live from ENO: 'La Traviata'. £13 in advance, £15 on the door.
7.45pm Wesley Hall, Oxford Street. Marlborough Gardening Association. Talk by Sean Magee, National Garden Scheme.
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- 15th (*Sunday*) 15th-22nd St John's Marlborough Community Lectures British Science Week. (See * events below). Adults £3.50, Concessions £2.50. Bookings in advance: Sally Bere 519558 or sbere@stjohns.wilts.sch.uk
- 16th (*Monday*) 10.30am Ellendune Hall, Wroughton. Kennet DFAS. AGM and Lecture by Sally Hoban: 'The History of Photography'. 01793 840790.
7.30pm Slade House, Devizes. Kennet Valley National Trust Association. Lecture by Alan Power: 'Stourhead Gardens'.
- 17th (*Tuesday*) 6.30pm St Peter's Church. AGM of St Peter's & St Paul's Marlborough Trust.
6.30pm St John's. Lecture by Dr Nigel Wright: 'The International Rosetta Mission'. *
7.15pm Town Hall. Live from ROH: 'Swan Lake'. £15 in advance, £17.50 on the door.
- 18th (*Wednesday*) 10.30am-12.30pm The Merchant's House. Lecture by David Evans: 'Art – The English & Continental Influence'. Tickets from The Merchant's House £15 (Friends of MH £12).
6.30pm St John's. Lecture by Dr Mike Batham & Dr Rob James: 'The Magic of Oxygen'
- 19th (*Thursday*) 6.30pm St John's. Lecture by Dr Michael Leach: 'Animals Behaving Badly'. *
7.00pm St Peter's Church. History Society Lecture by Nick Snashall: 'Avebury Between the Monuments'.
7.30pm Town Hall. Film: 'Effie Gray' (12A). £5 in advance, £6 on the door.
- 20th (*Friday*) Marlborough College End of Term.

21st (Saturday)

11am St John's. Lecture by Dr Paul Williams: 'Climate Science from a Climate Scientist'. Free admission. *

2.30pm Wiltshire Museum, Devizes. Wilts Archaeological & Natural History Society. Lecture by Dr Bruce Eagles: 'Romans, Britons and Saxons: Wessex in the Fifth Century'. Tickets £6.50 (members £4).

7.30pm St Mary's Church. Marlborough Concert Orchestra. £8, (£1.50 students).

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21<sup>st</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>


10am-4.30pm St Peter's Church. Wiltshire Artists 2015 Annual Exhibition. Entry free.

27<sup>th</sup> (Friday)

St John's End of Term 4.

28<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)

10am-4pm. Marlborough College. Marlborough Spring Fair. Entry £5. In aid of Cancer Research UK.



**Marlborough and Pewsey Deaneries are offering  
The Aldhelm Certificate 2015**

This is a course especially developed for Salisbury Diocese and consists of three terms: Faith in Christ, Faith in a Scientific World, and Faith at Work. Each term consists of 10 modules and at the end people who would like to write an essay about one of the topics which they explored can obtain the Aldhelm Certificate.

**Term 1** in Collingbourne Kingston : Saturdays 17/31 Jan, 14 Feb and 7/21 March  
**Term 2** will take place in Marlborough on Wednesday evenings after Easter, and  
**Term 3** sessions will be held in Pewsey. The cost of the course materials is £15 per term. For more information please contact Rev Janneke Blokland email: [jblokland@gmail.com](mailto:jblokland@gmail.com)

**Jumble Sale**  
Saturday 7 March  
10:00 – 12:00

**Ogbourne Primary School**  
Come and grab yourself a bargain  
clothes, shoes, accessories, toys, books, homeware, bric-a-brac, refreshments  
Admission 50p

Raising funds for Ogbourne School and the churches of  
St George and St Andrew



## **Family News from your local community: Audrey Peck**

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**Caroline and Chris Loveday** are Grandparents as Tom and Catherine's daughter Cherry Beatrice arrived at the end of November, a cousin for Max who is nearly 3. Congratulations!

**Brenda Down** was given a warm ovation and a thank you gift at St. Mary's Church for her work in recent years as a Lay Pastoral Assistant. Brenda came to Marlborough when her late husband, Wilfred, was appointed Rector of St. Mary's in 1976. They left in 1991 but with fond memories and old friends, she came back to live in Salisbury Rd in 2003. Although retired she still helps where she can.

**David and Jo Chandler** emailed to thank everyone for their prayers and support in getting their seriously autistic grandson Gregory home from Swaziland. Gregory is happily settled in a specialist care home in Bridgwater. Gregory's parents, Chris and Rachel and his sister Rebecca are coming back to England early in February. Meanwhile Gregory's brother Ben, is already in England and will be living with us for a "Gap" six months.

It was **Jean Tomlin's** birthday in February after a difficult year. She was very ill in hospital for some weeks but with her positive attitude she is back in her flat. Helen and Margie, her daughters, say that she cooks, cleans and sews and has recently had a cataract op. She did a magnificent job organising the Turkey Work chair covers in the Merchant's House. Happy Birthday, Jean.

**Jessie Pomfret** died recently. She and husband Jesse came to Manton Hollow in 1956. Born in 1929, in Essex, to school-teacher parents, she was evacuated to Wales, returning after a year and refusing to go back. Later, she studied domestic science at the National Training College, became a teacher and thus met Jesse. She loved cooking and was one of a team who ran the Luncheon Club for Senior Citizens. She had a huge collection of books. She was adept at solving problems. Her generous nature will be remembered with love and gratitude by Jesse, Jessy and her many friends. Our sincere sympathy to Jesse who was organist at St. Mary's Church for many years.

**Muriel Coburn** moved recently to a residential home in Market Lavington. She has written of the wonderful Christmas she had. She loved the twinkling lights and decorations, the visiting musicians, making and sampling mince pies, visiting Whitehall Garden Centre and being pushed around to see the donkeys and reindeer. Father Christmas visited every resident on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day they all enjoyed, with the staff, sitting down to the best Christmas dinner that she had ever tasted. Our very best wishes to Muriel.

**June Plank** of Savernake Court has died. She was born in Savernake Hospital 68 years ago and grew up in Lainey's Close. We were all shocked when her husband, Mick, died suddenly 6 years ago. She was very much respected and appreciated by members of the Golf Club during the 30 years that she worked there. Sincere sympathy to her sons Darryl and Wayne, grandchildren Sophia, Georgia and Louise and Wayne's stepsons Moss and Mon.

## EASTER SERVICES 2015

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

### **Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March**

7.00pm Readings and Music for Palm Sunday (St Mary's)

### **Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> March**

10.00am Mass (St Thomas More)

7.30pm Night Prayer with Address (St George's)

### **Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> March**

10.00am Mass (St Thomas More)

7.30pm Night Prayer with Address (St George's)

### **Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April**

7.00pm Dramatised Recital, Canon Gerald Osborne (St Mary's)

### **Maundy Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

7.00pm Section Service Passover Meal (Christchurch)

7.30pm Mass of the Last Supper followed by vigil until

10.00pm Night Prayers (St Thomas More)

7.30pm Holy Communion (St Mary's) followed by The Watch until midnight

### **Good Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

10.30am Worshipping at the Foot of the Cross (St Mary's)

10.30am Meditation Service (Christchurch)

11.30am Procession of Witness Marlborough High Street

12.15pm Christian Aid Lunch at Wesley Hall

12.30pm Stations of The Cross (St Thomas More)

1.30pm Devotional Service (St George's) to 3.00pm

3.00pm Commemoration of the Lord's Passion (St Thomas More)

### **Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> April**

6.00pm Readings for Easter Eve (St George's)

9.00pm The Easter Vigil Mass (St Thomas More)

### **Easter Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> April**

5.30am Sunrise Service Martinsell Hill

8.00am Holy Communion (St Mary's)

8.00am Holy Communion (St George's)

9.30am Family Communion (St John the Baptist)

10.00am Family Communion (St Mary's)

10.00am Family Communion (St George's)

10.30am Holy Communion (Christchurch)

10.30am Quaker Meeting for Worship

11.00am Mass (St Thomas More)

## Blue Plaques – for all? Andrew Studdert-Kennedy

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It is an enjoyable exercise to imagine which of our contemporaries might warrant a blue plaque in the future. Sometimes we can anticipate that someone is going to achieve great things, more often I suspect we are surprised by who it is that ends up in the limelight.

Although it falls to very few of us to be remembered with any kind of a plaque, let alone a blue one, it falls to all of us to be remembered in one way or another. On the whole it is true to say that we have very little influence on *how* we will be remembered; most of us don't write autobiographies!

Furthermore, so often we don't know the impact we have on others – positive or negative. As it has been said, *The last thing we know about ourselves is our effect*. In that sense a good test of self-awareness is to imagine our own obituary, one written by a best friend, the other by our greatest 'enemy'. Perhaps the truth lies somewhere in between.

No matter how we may be remembered, nor how little there may seem to be said about us, people of faith live with the conviction that we are all precious to, and loved by, God. An ordinary life is still a precious one. In God's dispensation there are blue plaques for all.

I remember someone talking once about the story of the Feeding of the Five Thousand and referring to the 'Call of the 4,988'. There were the twelve disciples who we know about and the vast crowd of others who were there to be fed. The 4,988 had a vital role in God's story. Sometimes we might find ourselves amongst the twelve, at other times we might be in the crowd. We can be faithful and fulfilled in either role.

The well known lines from the very end of George Eliot's novel Middlemarch come to mind:

*"For the growing good of the world is partly dependent on unhistoric acts, and that things are not so ill with you and me as they might have been, is half owing to the number who lived faithfully a hidden life, and rest in unvisited tombs."*

I like the thought that on the unvisited tombs of the world, God bestows his own blue plaque.

### **Marlborough Concert Orchestra**

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 7.30pm, St Mary's Church

Brahms, Dvořák, Beethoven

£8 adults, £1.50 students

Tickets from Sound Knowledge or on the door

Licensed bar and raffle

# News from the Churches for March

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## Women's World Day of Prayer, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March, 10:30am at Christchurch.

This year the Christian Women of The Bahamas have prepared a service based on the theme: - Jesus said "Do you know what I have done to you?" - from St John's Gospel, relating to the washing of the Disciples' feet. There will be a meditation rather than a talk, this year, as requested by the Women of The Bahamas.



## Women's Fellowship (2.45pm, Christchurch)

- 3rd Rosie Beal: Bring and Buy
- 10th Members' Meeting
- 17th Sandra Wylie
- 24th Kate Trowbridge: Bring and Buy
- 31st Revd Heather Cooper

## Marlborough Deanery

- 7<sup>th</sup> Holy Cross, Ramsbury, 9.30 to 11.30am. **Intercession Training**
- 12<sup>th</sup> St James' Church, Avebury, 7.30pm. **Touch Wood and other sayings** - Biblical roots of common sayings and superstitions



## The Marlborough Filling Station

The Filling Station is a national network of Christians meeting informally for worship, teaching and friendship. We meet at St Peter's School, normally on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, although the next meeting is on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March.



## Devotion

Hangout @Devotion continues to meet through March. More details of activities on the website [www.devotion-marlborough.co.uk](http://www.devotion-marlborough.co.uk). Please continue to pray for the work of Devotion with young people.



## Equality Vigil

- 14<sup>th</sup> 10.00am to 12.00 in the High Street outside the Jubilee Room to highlight the effects of increasing inequality in our society and make suggestions about how the situation might be addressed. MAPAG, Marlborough Quakers, Transition Marlborough, and now MCT support the event.

## Lent Talks on the Psalms: Marlborough Churches Together

Four weekly talks on the Psalms by Revd Dr Knut Heim Mdiv, PhD, Tutor in Old Testament, Trinity College Bristol. How to use the psalms to deepen our faith in God.



All are welcome on Wednesdays 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm, Christchurch, Marlborough.

## News from the Churches continued

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### **Mothering Sunday**

15<sup>th</sup> All welcome to attend our usual Church Services to celebrate Mothering Sunday with gifts of flowers. The 5.30pm Informal Worship at St Mary's will observe the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent.

### **Palm Sunday**

29<sup>th</sup> Marlborough Churches Together invites you to an evening of reflection for Palm Sunday and Holy Week. The evening starts at 7.00pm in St Mary's Church, Marlborough and will include poetry readings and music by the Dodecantus Chamber Choir, conducted by David Ripley. Free entry, retiring collection.



### **Quakers in the World**

On Monday afternoons in January and early February a group of about 20 of us gathered at the Friends' Meeting House to discuss a Christian response to a variety of problems facing our society today, such as healthcare, economic affairs and inequality, peace issues, and a sustainable future, and what we can do to make a difference: a good basis for further exploration and discussions, especially in the light of the coming elections.



### **Celebrating Holy Week**

Students from St John's will be exhibiting art work inspired by The Passion in St Mary's Church, Marlborough from 23<sup>rd</sup> March - 4<sup>th</sup> April. Take an opportunity to call in to St Mary's and spend some quiet time reflecting on the paintings during the lead up to Easter.



### **Good Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April, Procession of Witness 11.30am – 12noon**

All are invited to join us on the Town Hall steps at 11:30am for our procession. Some of you will come from other church services but we hope that many more will give a few minutes of their time to mark this special day in togetherness: able-bodied and not so able – wheel chairs and push chairs.

We will walk silently along the High Street to gather again outside St Peter's Church to finish with a song and a prayer – and then return to the Wesley Hall, Christchurch, for the Christian Aid simple lunch at 12.15. Donations to Christian Aid towards the lunch would be appreciated.

### **Easter Garden Competition**

St George's Easter Garden competition for children. There will be a chance to make Easter Gardens at home or at St George's Church, Preshute 10-11am on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April. Entry forms and details will be available from St George's Church or Preshute School from 15<sup>th</sup> March.

## News from the Churches continued

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### **5<sup>th</sup> April Easter Sunday Sunrise Communion Service**

We will be meeting in Martinsell car park at 5.30am. Watching the sun rise on Easter Day is an amazing experience.

### **5<sup>th</sup> April Easter Sunday Kite-flying**

It has been suggested that kite flying is a way of celebrating the risen Christ, a tradition from the Caribbean. There is an opportunity to join in this Easter celebration by flying a kite at Marlborough College Playing Fields (access off Leaze Road) on Easter Sunday afternoon at 4.00pm. A fun family outing.

### **Dates for the diary**

1<sup>st</sup> April Wednesday, 7.00pm in St Mary's Church, Marlborough. Marlborough Churches Together invite you to a dramatised recital of St Mark's Gospel from memory, by Canon Gerald Osborne, Rural Dean of Pewsey. Entrance free, retiring collection.

15<sup>th</sup> April Wednesday: General Election Hustings at 7.30pm in St John's Academy, Marlborough.

25<sup>th</sup> April Saturday: Awakening the Dreamer – a workshop run by Gil Hilleard, 'a profound enquiry into how we might realise a bold new vision, an environmentally sustainable, socially just and spiritually fulfilling human presence on earth'. 10.00am to 4.00pm in the Wesley Hall, Oxford Street. Booking and details from Rachel on 512205.

St Non's Retreat: September 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> on the peaceful Pembrokeshire coast. Book now with Barney on 512205.

## The Merchant's House Marlborough

The House of Thomas Bayly 1653



### ***The Life & Times of Mr Bayly & his Friends***

Lectures: Wednesday March 4<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup>, Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup>  
£15 per session, £12 Friends of MH, 10% discount if booking all three sessions  
10am-12.30pm; coffee and pastries

Wednesday May 6<sup>th</sup> guided tour of Wilton House £15 (own transport)

Merchant's House, 132 High Street, Marlborough

01672 511491 [admin@merchantshousetrust.co.uk](mailto:admin@merchantshousetrust.co.uk)

in aid of The Merchant's House Appeal







## Marlborough Churches Together

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### Usual Sunday service times.

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

9.00am Worship

10.30am Morning Service with Junior Church & 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 Sundays)

10.00am Parish Communion or Non-Eucharistic Worship

11.30am Matins (2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays)

#### **St John the Baptist, Minal (C of E)**

8.00am Holy Communion BCP (2nd Sunday)

9.30am Parish Communion (1st & 3rd Sundays)

#### **St Mary's, behind the Town Hall (C of E)**

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP on 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday)

10.00am All Age Worship (1st Sunday)

Parish Communion, Junior Church & crèche on all other Sundays

5.30pm Informal service (except on 1st Sunday)

#### **St Thomas More, George Lane (Roman Catholic)**

11.00am Sung Mass (See also below)

**Marlborough College** Services are shown at the College Chapel

### Weekday Services

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#### **St Mary's**

Holy Communion: 10.30am Wednesday

#### **St Thomas More**

Mass: 10.00am Mon, Tues, Wed & Sat

Holy Days: 10.00am

## Marlborough Church Contacts

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Saturday 28th March, Norwood Hall at Marlborough College

Marlborough
SpringFair



CANCER
RESEARCH
UK

10am – 4pm - Entry: £5

From the Registers

Weddings:

25th Jan – Kati Carter & Nigel Massey at St George's

30th Jan – Georgina Cockcroft & Oliver Bowes at St George's

Departed:

7th Jan – Dorothy 'Pearl' Plank (89) Merlin Court Care Home, Marlborough
West Wiltshire Crematorium, Semington

14th Jan – June Plank (68) of 8 Savernake Court, Marlborough
St Mary's and West Berkshire Crematorium, Thatcham

25th Jan – Jessie Margaret Pomfret (85) of 35 Manton Hollow, Marlborough
St George's and Kingsdown Crematorium

29th Jan – Joyce 'Joy' Phyllis Nock (91) of 78 St Thomas Road, Trowbridge
West Wiltshire Crematorium, Semington

31st Jan – Bernice Lee (85) of 4 Poulton Crescent, Marlborough
St Mary's and Kingsdown Crematorium

Thursday 5th March, Memorial Hall, Marlborough College



Marlborough Brandt Group

Linking people for a fairer world

The Pain and the Passion - the privilege of making a difference

Baroness Cox - Founder of HART Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust

Swindon Choral Society, Oxford Symphony Orchestra

in conjunction with Marlborough Brandt Group

Saturday March 28th 7.30pm in Marlborough College Chapel

Dvořák : Requiem

www.swindonchoral.org.uk for ticket information

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Contributions and comments from readers are always welcome. Please send articles and letters to the Editor; other notices or announcements to the Compiler. All items for inclusion in next month's *Tower and Town* must be submitted by **Tuesday 10 March**.

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Please ring Rosemary Spiller (512338)