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# TOWER AND TOWN

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Buildings  
Old and  
New



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# TOWER<sub>AND</sub>TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

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## **Editorial**

### **Buildings Old and New**

Marlborough has been around, as a place of habitation, for nearly 4500 years. It is a vibrant and beautiful place with a great heart and atmosphere. But what are the buildings that shape this town? In this edition, pupils from Marlborough College explore the buildings and institutions that bring this town to life.

These articles take a look at key edifices around the town and measure their impact on the community. In addition, we give an insight into the Memorial Hall refurbishment and look at the buildings which require our support to ensure their continued existence such as the Merchant's House, St Peter's Church and the Wilton Windmill.

We hope you enjoy this edition of Tower and Town and that it inspires greater appreciation of Marlborough's rich culture and history.

*Editor - Freddie Booth*

# Restoring the Memorial Hall

**Ben Nuttall and Harry Alexander**

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The Memorial Hall is a key building for Marlborough College, as well as an important venue for concerts, talks and performances for the town community. For those who drive up and down the Bath Road it is a familiar and striking sight. However, you may not know that it is being renovated due to both the expansion of the College and also the hundredth anniversary of the First World War. It is a highly important building for all the residents of Marlborough.

The College plans to expand the hall, so that instead of seating around five hundred people, it will be able to hold seven hundred. The intention is also to increase the prominence of the memorial to the 749 young men from the College who died in the two World Wars and to whom the hall is a memorial. Both the interior and exterior will be repaired and drastically upgraded so that everyone can enjoy a more pleasing experience there. As the Master of Marlborough College says it "will be fit for generations to come", showing that these improvements will be good enough well into the future.

The College department that is running the fundraising campaign is called 'A Legacy for Life' which sponsors many of the College's philanthropic projects such as the bursary funds. The aim of the campaign is to improve all of the students' lives so that they can progress to help as many people as they can in their individual fields. They are hoping with this renovation they can inspire people to follow the legacy of those soldiers who gave their lives for the greater good.

The purpose of the refurbishment is to both represent what the Memorial Hall originally stood for, as a memorial to soldiers, and also to improve the experience for audiences and performers. These renovations can help make the performances and talks held in the Memorial Hall more enjoyable due to the improvements in both the general acoustics of the room and the technology for presentations. There will also be new methods of entrance and exit for those who cannot use the stairs by introducing a state-of-the-art lift. The allowance for more people inside the hall may also allow for lectures and talks to be more open to the public due to there not being a struggle for space. The only problem with the renovation is that it will take a year to be completed so it will close on Monday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2017 and has a predicted re-opening of June 2018. We look forward to the results.

April is the centenary of the Battle of Doiran in northern Greece. After the failure of the Gallipoli campaign in 1915 the British and French decided to send armies to Salonika in northern Greece to counter the threat from Bulgaria which was allied to the Central Powers. Part of that British army was the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Wiltshire Regiment. For two years the warfare was like the Western Front with a stalemate of trenches, barbed wire and fortified machine gun posts. The features of the battlefield were given names from Wiltshire such as Rockley Hill, Swindon Hill etc.

In April 1917, the Wiltshires were ordered to attack the Bulgarian positions after a heavy bombardment. Like on the Western front, the bombardment had not seriously damaged the Bulgarian defences and the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion lost one third of their strength in the failed attack. Most of these casualties were “missing” and never found because the British had failed to capture any of the Bulgarian positions.

One of the officers of the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion was Christopher Hughes who went on to be Art Master at Marlborough College and Mayor of Marlborough in 1935 and 1944. Christopher Hughes is well known for his pencil drawings of Marlborough and he arranged for a “Roll of Honour” of those who died serving in the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion to be placed with the Borough Council. The War Memorial in the London Road is in memory of the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion who trained around Marlborough before setting off to Greece.

One of the “missing” at the Battle of Doiran was my grandfather Andrew Fergusson who left a widow and seven children living at Braydon Oak in Savernake. In spite of their loss, the family had a very happy future life with the youngest of the seven (also Andrew), dying only a few years ago.

**Want to meet people and make more friends?**

**Like to give something back to your local community?**

**Have a couple of hours a week to spare?**

The Friends of Savernake Hospital run a small Shop at the Hospital and would love to have more volunteers!

If you'd like to find out more, please email  
shop@friendsofsavernake.org,

Juliet Bonser on 01672 513862, or visit  
[www.friendsofsavernake.org/become-a-friends-volunteer](http://www.friendsofsavernake.org/become-a-friends-volunteer)

# The Merchant's House

Joe Pigott and Harry Philipson-Stow

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Marlborough's High Street is replete with historic buildings; however, none of them is more significant today in showing its history than The Merchant's House. Built in the seventeenth century, following the Great Fire of Marlborough in 1653, the house is preserved as a 'living place' in which people can experience what domestic life was like centuries ago. However, The Merchant's House is dependent upon donations and charitable funding and unless that is sustained the building would have to be abandoned.

The house was built and adapted between 1653 and 1700 by Thomas Bayly, a prosperous silk mercer. Over the years a fine timber and brick building was constructed, its interior paneled with wall paintings and an oak staircase. This is now an opportunity for us to view a 17th century house as it was. The house is a living place where there are demonstrations of costume making and dressing up. The conservation that is still taking place makes The Merchant's House a special and unusual visitor attraction. Each year many visitors return regularly to view progress on the project.

The Merchant's House needs funding as they believe that there are parts of the house that could be made more like the 17<sup>th</sup> century original. They are aiming to raise £900,000, and have thus far reached £830,000. The funding is being used to help conserve the three-hundred-year-old paintings and wall paper, as well as restoring the kitchen, landings and the staircase.

Apart from donations The Merchant's House has a few other sources of income, including being rented out as a venue for educational events and entertainment. It is kept alive by a volunteer scheme in which there are over a hundred people. The Merchant's House Gift Shop helps towards the funding.

The recent donations have been appreciated. They have been used to restore the garden and replace any plants that died due to the winter. A table has been purchased for the dining room, the servants' garrets have been restored showing how domestic life was.

If the funding were to stop, The Merchant's house wouldn't be able to keep up with the cost of renewing everything when it is damaged and the house would no longer be able to maintain its 17<sup>th</sup> century appearance. This would result in the loss of tourists and visitors, meaning that The Merchant's House would be shut down and thus we would be losing an incredible building, representing what it was like to live centuries ago. This key educational and historical establishment must be supported!

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**The Town Hall has been an iconic building for over a century in the High Street and remains at the heart of governance and democracy within Marlborough. Construction of the building began in the Victorian era and finished in 1902. Within the Town Hall are a court room, a council chamber and an assembly room. We were lucky enough to get a tour of the building, learning about the history and how it affects tourism today, attracting couples to get married in, or even as a venue for meetings and entertainment.**

The Court Room was once used as a magistrate's court with prisoners housed in the cells in the basement. Prisoners would be brought up into the Court Room through a hatch in the floor, which is still there. Nowadays, it is more likely to be used for public sales and wedding ceremonies. It is a light, airy, high-ceilinged room on the ground floor with front doors opening onto a wide sweep of steps. As well as the Court room the Town Hall also contains the Council Chamber. Portraits of Marlborough's past Mayors line the walls of this intimate panelled room where the Town Council hold their Committee Meetings. There is a large stained glass window depicting the arms of the old Borough. Lord Ailesbury presented the Mayor's chair for the Council Chamber in 1901. The room is available to hire for wedding ceremonies, conferences and private meetings.

The Assembly Room is on the first floor, accessed by its grand staircase and with an adjoining bar. This is an imposing room with chandeliers, painted vaulted ceiling and a balcony with a magnificent view of the famous wide sweep of the High Street. It is used today for receptions, parties, film shows, plays and official civic events.

The Town Hall can actually be let out for parties, religious festivals and other things similar to this. Chairs and tables are freely available, however you can also hire other facilities from the Town Hall. If you were to hire both the assembly room and the court room together you would manage to fit 150 in the court room and 200 in the assembly room. The funds produced by these events are very important, as the town hall is run by the town council, so all the money produced goes to them and therefore it helps support the local community here in Marlborough.

The Marlborough Town Hall is at the heart of Marlborough, dominating the east end of the High Street. However, as we have found out, its significance for the town goes well beyond its striking architecture.

# **St Peter's and What it is Today**

**Hector Perry and Harry Keenan**

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At the far western end of the High Street stands the imposing St Peter's church, its tower dominating the skyline. Traffic zooms past the church's boundary, imposingly close to the edifice itself, and it is easy to see how the increasing volumes of traffic have threatened this important historic building. We wanted to find out more of the history and significance of St Peter's.

## **The Roundabout**

The roundabout was planned originally in 1972 to reduce traffic congestion on the High Street. The parish was unable to support two churches and so decided to make St Peter's redundant as St Mary's Church was larger and in a better state of repair. It seemed by 1974 that the church would be demolished. Yet the mayor at the time, Alderman Jake Seamer, wanted to find an alternative way to keep the church running. Four years later, a charitable trust was established. Its role was to preserve the church and ensure its continued use by the Marlborough community. Today, considerable fundraising along with volunteer work has allowed the church to remain open and be converted into a tearoom and shop. The church also secured National Lottery funding and the help of the English Heritage Site charity.

## **Inside the Church**

The tearoom and the arts and crafts shop have been open since 1978. It has been very popular among College students and the local community. It is entirely run on a volunteer basis. The tearoom is a wonderful establishment, selling delicious sweet treats and making fantastic hot drinks. The craft shop is an excellent outlet, selling locally handcrafted gifts. Also inside the church is the War Memorial Chapel. The chapel was opened in 1920 as a memorial to the members of the parish who lost their lives in the Great War. The wooden panelling is inscribed with all the names of the people who gave their lives for King and Country. Next in the church are the stained glass windows. Thomas Wyatt installed them in 1863 as part of the restoration. The stained glass windows are beautifully designed, showing the shepherds in the manger and the crucifixion of Christ.

## **The Tower**

The tower is a remarkable structure which offers unprecedented views across the town and into the surrounding countryside. Built in 1500 in the perpendicular style it stands tall over the High Street. It takes 139 steps to reach the top of the tower.

There is a small museum now in the ringing chamber. Along with the museum the ringing chamber still possesses an old ringing mechanism in working condition. There is a belfry, which originally housed eight bells, and now houses the beautiful Sanctus Bell that dates from 1741.

We decided to write about the church because we visited it last year. We felt that it was a very special experience, especially seeing the view from the bell tower and being able to see the ringing chamber. We also wanted to highlight that the church is in need of more support from the local community. St Peter's church is a fantastic place, which has stood looking down the high street for more than nine hundred years. As residents here in Marlborough we think that it would be a great shame to lose the church – please do what you can to support it and secure its future.

### **“Brilliant Young Musicians in St Peter’s Church”**

**Yume Fujise (violin)**

**Maria Tarasewicz (piano)**

**Sunday 30 April, 7.30pm**

Yume Fujise is a Japanese violinist who began learning the violin at the age of 3 and is now studying at the Royal College of Music, London. She has appeared on BBC Radio 3 'In Tune' and has performed in the Royal Festival Hall and Wigmore Hall.

Maria Tarasewicz has an international reputation as a soloist and chamber musician.

They will be playing **Elgar** - Sonata 28; **Schubert** - Fantasie 25; **Ravel** - Tzigane; **Kreisler** - Syncopation



**IT'S FREE!**

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April**

**4.00 pm**

**Come in costume if you wish!**

More info: [marlboroughpp2017@gmail.com](mailto:marlboroughpp2017@gmail.com)

[www.marlboroughpassion.uk](http://www.marlboroughpassion.uk)

The Wilton Windmill was built in 1821 and was in use for over a century. It is found on a chalk ridge between Wilton and Great Bedwyn. In the 1960s the mill was added as a grade two listed building and in 1971 the Wiltshire County Council purchased the mill then leased it to the Wiltshire Historic Building Trust who began to restore the mill back to working condition in 1972. In 1976 it was back and making flour again. The mill is now managed by the Wilton Windmill Society which was formed in 1976 and is operated entirely by volunteers. In the 1980's the mill was struggling financially which led to the formation of a cricket team to raise funds for the mill by playing sponsored matches. The mill still produces flour to this day.

The following creative piece is based on an 19th century miller and his family...

“The wooden door squeaked shut behind me as I sneaked out onto the cobble stone path. I could still hear my mother’s racket as pots and pans clinked together as she scrubbed. A nifty escape meant that she had been unable to sense me leave. The path depleted and a beaten earth track lay underfoot. The wind gently pounded the branches of the overhanging trees which surrounded me. As the leaves rattled in harmony the light beamed through them casting splinted shadows on to the path ahead. The views stretched for miles over the Wiltshire Downs, which were lined along every ridge with chalk. It continued over each rich hilltop which lay undisturbed and thriving as my eyes gazed upon it.

At last, in sight, was what I had crept out for. The four white blades glinted and glimmered as they reached off into the clear blue sky. The sails circulated around endlessly and effortlessly. The mill itself was less delicate. It possessed even rows of light brick, which went up for three floors. A small castle-like window was dotted on each smooth surface to mark every floor.

There was a soft groaning coming from the mill. For me this was the sound of work every day since my birth night. I crept with light feet around the cylindrical building until I reached a narrow opening to see through. I would have to lie low down on the dirt and look in at an angle.

I made myself comfortable and peered through the tight gap.

There I saw him, his back turned to me, sweating profusely as he heaved sack after sack of fine flower. Like a machine he refused to show fatigue.

He grabbed two bags at a time, heaving them onto his shoulders, before pacing a few yards, and releasing them onto the cart with a thud.

Relief was short lived, as in two steps the weight was added again sinking down his shoulders and globing his back.

After a last couple of bags, he perched on a bale for a while. Silence fell.

I continued to gaze at him. He drew controlled deep breaths and sat back on his hands.

In a moment, I dragged my left shoe across the dirt gravel floor, sending a scrape through the quiet. A brief pause followed, which in turn was preceded by a calm and asserted, “Come here”, given in a deep powerful voice.



I scrambled to my feet and ran in a curve to the doorway, where I burst through to find the strong figure knelt, standing with his arms wide open. I clattered straight into him and squeezed with all my force. We released, and with a smirk he ruffled my hair and told me to head back home. After another exchange of smiles, I obeyed and ran back out the door. A warm feeling set my mind and heart racing as I disappeared back down the path leading home. The feeling that one day, I might grow up to be like the strong, hard-working miller.

That I might grow up to be like my father.”

## The Polly Tea Rooms

### Jemima Stratton and Poppy Hughes

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The Polly Tea Rooms is at the heart of Marlborough history and lifestyle. As one of the oldest social establishments in the High Street we began to think, how much do people actually know about Polly's? Aside from the signature afternoon tea, and Sunday lunch, Polly's has catered for hundreds of thousands of people since it opened in 1912, including Kate Middleton and Robbie Williams. We wanted to find out just what makes it quite so special.

The tea rooms were first opened in 1912 by two women, Miss Dean Leath Hay and Miss Janet McCloud. Janet McCloud was one of the original leading suffragettes. Therefore Polly's was made a safe place for women to meet and spend time having afternoon tea. The actual building itself hasn't changed that much except from a fire in the 1960's which destroyed a part of the building. Some of the cake recipes and tins are still the original ones from 1912 !

We managed to secure ourselves an interview with Ann and David Clarke, who have been the owners of Polly's for the last four years. David decided to buy Polly's, after he retired, as a small project but little did he know how much work it would actually be! This small establishment can sometimes see over five hundred hungry visitors through the door in a day, and since this is at full capacity, Ann and David don't feel the need to expand, franchise or change Polly's more than is absolutely necessary.

We went behind the scenes of Polly's into the old bedrooms upstairs which are now offices and down into the kitchens where their feasts are prepared. We noticed as we were walking around that the ceiling was very low; we assumed this was because the building was built in the 1840s and being tall was uncommon. We witnessed midday lunch being cooked and prepared as well as the bakers working away on some large cake, Polly's still uses some of the very first original recipes and that's what makes their recipes so tasty! To conclude it seems that little has changed in one hundred years at the small but important location.

We learnt that Polly's is going to open for evening meals in the upcoming month and that the owners are trying to expand their menu as well as the opening times. Also, tables have been put outside for sunny days. The threat from the ever-increasing big chain coffee chains doesn't seem to bother the owners as they

explained to us that they offer a different kind of product and are unique with their background and old fashioned character, and that their food is freshly made every morning in comparison to the nearby coffee branches down the high street.

Polly Tea Rooms is a place that is extremely individual and serves delicious meals or cakes. At the heart of a special historical location with an amazing reputation to serve only the finest tea, we would recommend this to you all. We guarantee you will have an enjoyable experience and it will be worth your money. Long may the traditions of this excellent venue continue!

## PVDFAS (Pewsey Vale Decorative & Fine Arts Society)

Lecture on 'Wilton Diptych Enigma'

Monday 10th April 2017 at 7.30 pm

Venue: Bouverie Hall, Pewsey SN9 5QE

Guests welcome (small fee)

More information please contact [www.pewseyvalenadfas.org](http://www.pewseyvalenadfas.org)



## Marlborough Medical Practice Patient Participation Group (PPG) Update **CARERS' AFTERNOON**

Marlborough Medical Practice is running a **Carers' Coffee Afternoon** on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017** from **2.30 pm – 4.00 pm** at Mildenhall Village Hall, Mildenhall, Marlborough, SN8 2LR.

Alzheimer's Support and Wiltshire & Swindon User Network will be available during the afternoon to let you know more about the services they offer. A Health-care Assistant from the surgery will also be attending.

This is an informal afternoon when you and the person you care for can come and meet other Carers in a relaxed environment. Tea, coffee and refreshments will be served.

**Carers' Week** will be taking place from **12–18 June 2017**. This is an annual campaign to raise awareness of caring, highlight the challenges that Carers face and recognise the contribution they make.

A Carer is someone, of any age, who provides unpaid regular support to family or friends who could not manage without this help.

More information is available on the practice website, along with an electronic version of our Carers' registration form:

<http://www.marlboroughdoctors.org.uk/info.aspx?p=3>

# What's on in April

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## Regular events

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### Every Monday

7.30pm: Christchurch. Marlborough Choral Society.

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

### Every Tuesday

10-11.30am: Christchurch. Friendship Club.

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

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

### Every Wednesday

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

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

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

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

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

### Every Thursday (or some Thursdays)

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

10:30-12 noon: Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. Singing for the Brain.

Alzheimer's Support. 01225 776481. (*Every Thursday during term-time.*)

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

### 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.

## April Calendar

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

The Merchant's House opens for tours. till Sat 28 Oct: Mon 11.30am & 1.30pm, Tues, Fri, Sat 10.30am, 12, 1.30 & 3.0pm. £7.50 (£1 for U16s).

7.30pm St Peter's Church. Swindon Choral Society. Concert: Poulenc's Gloria & Organ Concerto & Gounod's St Cecilia Mass. £15.



### **3<sup>rd</sup> (Monday)**

2pm Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. Embroiderers' Guild; Ploughman's Lunch plus displays and demonstrations. 861658.

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

10-12pm Panelled Room, The Merchant's House. Spring Study Course 2017. Lecture 3 by Chris Rogers 'The Dainty Devise' (A Century of Architectural Innovation). £15 (£12 Friends). 511491. In aid of The Merchant's House Appeal.  
12.30pm 40 St Martins (opposite The Queen's Head). Widows' Friendship Group Lunch. 514030.

7.30pm Wesley Hall, Oxford Street. WI meeting. Talk by Mike Benson, Chairman of Wiltshire Bees: 'The Life of a Bee'.

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

7.30pm Town Hall, Devizes. Fundraising Lecture for Wilts Archaeological & Natural History Society by Sir David Hempleman-Adams: 'The Polar Ocean Challenge'. £15 (£13 WANHS Members) Booking essential: 01380 727369.

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

Start of Easter Holidays for St John's Academy.

10am-3pm Bouverie Hall, Pewsey. Rotary Club Easter Fayre. £2.50 (under 12's free). In support of GWH Brighter Future Radio Therapy appeal.

Stonebridge Notice Board. Ark Moth Night. 511028

### **9<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)**

10am-4pm Marlborough College. CR UK Spring Fair. £3 (children under 12 free).

12.15-5pm Barbury Racecourse. Tedworth Point-to-Point & Pony Racing. £10 (U16s free).

7.30pm Kennet Valley Hall. Film: 'A United Kingdom' (12A). £6.

### **10<sup>th</sup> (Monday)**

10.30am Ellendune Hall, Wroughton. Kennet DFAS. Lecture by Peter Medhurst: 'Vivaldi in Venice'. 01793 840790.

7.30 pm Bouverie Hall, Pewsey SN9 5QE. Pewsey Vale DFAS Lecture on 'Wilton Diptych Enigma' Guests welcome (small fee)

### **11<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)**

7.15pm Town Hall. Live from the Royal Opera House: Ballet 'Jewels'. £15 in adv, £17.50 on door.

**12<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)**

The Merchant's House. Trip to Westwood Manor, Bradford on Avon, led by Chris Rogers. £15 (£12 Friends). 511491.

7.45pm Wesley Hall, Oxford Street. Gardening Club. Talk by Carl Gill: 'Making Patio Containers'.

**15<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)**

4.00pm Marlborough Passion Play, High St (marlboroughpp2017@gmail.com)

**18<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)**

Start of Summer Term for Marlborough College.

**19<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)**

7.30pm St Peter's Church. The Merchant's House Spring Lecture by Dr Christopher Scott: 'Wining & Dining in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century'.

Tickets £15 (£12 Friends) from office or shop. 511491.

**20<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)**

7.30pm St Peter's Church. History Society. Lecture by Katy Whittaker: 'Wild Wings over Wiltshire'. Guests £4 (£2 students).

7.30pm Town Hall. Film: 'A Walk in the Woods' (15). £5 in adv, £6 on door.

**22<sup>nd</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> (Saturday-Saturday)**

10am-4.30pm (Sunday 10am-3.0pm) St Peter's Church. Wiltshire Artists Annual Exhibition. Free entry.

**22<sup>nd</sup> (Saturday)**

9.30am-12pm in local gardens. Permaculture: 10 different topics covered by local experts on occasional Sat mornings. £45. Proceeds to Transition Marlborough.

Contact [permaculture@transitionmarlborough.org](mailto:permaculture@transitionmarlborough.org) for information.

**23<sup>rd</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> (Monday)**

Start of Summer Term for St John's Academy.

**30<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)**

7.30pm St Peter's Church. Concert: Yume Fujise (Violin) and Maria Tarasewicz (piano). £10 (£8 for members of MBG or St Peter's Trust).

**1st May (Monday)**

11.00am-3.00pm Bushton Manor Plant Fair and Open Garden (details next edition)

**Easter Services 2017 - All the churches of Marlborough wish you a very Happy Easter and warmly invite you to worship with us:**

**Palm Sunday, 9 April**

6.00pm United Palm Sunday Service (Christchurch)

**Monday, 10 April**

10.00am Mass (St Thomas More)

7.30pm Night Prayer with Address (St John the Baptist)

**Tuesday, 11 April**

10.00am Mass (St Thomas More)

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

**Wednesday, 12 April**

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

**Maundy Thursday - 13 April**

7.00pm Section Communion Service (Christchurch)

7.30pm Mass of the Last Supper followed by vigil until:

10.00pm Night Prayers (St Thomas More)

8.00pm Sung Eucharist (St Mary's) *and The Watch until midnight*

**Good Friday - 14 April**

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

10.30am Reflective 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)

1.00pm – 3.00pm Devotional Service (St George's)

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

**Saturday - 15 April**

9.00pm The Easter Vigil Mass (St Thomas More)

4.00pm The Passion Play (The Parade and High St., Marlborough)

**Easter Sunday - 16 April**

6.00am Sunrise Service at 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)

4.00pm Kite Flying (College Playing Fields)

## News from the Churches – April 2017

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*(For Easter Service times please see page 17)*

### Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group

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(MAPAG) meets at the Friends' Meeting House, The Parade, Marlborough at 7.30pm on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April. All welcome to attend the meeting.

### Marlborough Churches Together

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The Fraternal meets on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April; please contact the clergy if you would like anything raised. For dates of events please visit: <http://marlboroughchurchestogether.uk/mct/>

### Seniors' Sunday Lunch Club

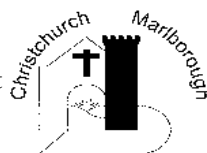
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There will be no Sunday Seniors' Lunch club in April, we will meet again on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May at Christchurch, Wesley Hall at 12.15. To book a place, please ring the office on 513701. Cost is £7.50.

### Palm Sunday

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The United Service for Palm Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April takes place at 6.00pm in Christchurch. All Welcome.



### Women's Fellowship

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2.45pm in Christchurch

4<sup>th</sup> April to be arranged

11<sup>th</sup> April Rev. Heather Cooper (Holy Week)

18<sup>th</sup> April No Meeting (Easter hols)

25<sup>th</sup> April Trevor Durston (Leprosy Mission + Bring and Buy)

### Good Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April

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All are invited to join us outside the **Town Hall just before 11.30am** for our procession of silent witness. 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. After brief opening prayer we will walk silently along the High Street to gather again outside St Peter’s for concluding prayer – and then back to Wesley Hall, Oxford Street, for the Christian Aid Lunch at 12.15pm (Admission to lunch by donation at door).

There will be Devotional Services in St George’s and St Thomas More on Good Friday afternoon and on Saturday evening at St Thomas More.

## The Passion Play

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Easter Eve, Saturday 15th April, starting at 4pm. See page 9.

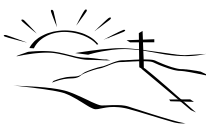
## Easter Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April

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For Easter Sunday Service dates please see page 17.

The Sunrise Service on Martinsell Hill takes place on Easter Morning starting at 6.00am. Park in the Martinsell Hill car park.

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 the Marlborough College Playing Fields (*off Leaze Road*) on Easter Sunday afternoon at 4.00pm.



**Hangout & Devotion** Meets weekly on Thursday evenings 7-8.30pm in the Youth Room at Wesley Hall for young people aged 11-16.

**Anytime**, for young people aged 10 - 14, meets weekly on Sundays (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.

For more information about youth work please contact Blayze White: 07758 837233 or email either [devotionyouthproject@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:devotionyouthproject@hotmail.co.uk) or [youthworkermarlborough42@gmail.com](mailto:youthworkermarlborough42@gmail.com)

Please continue to pray for the work with young people and for the Youth Groups: Devotion and Anytime.

## Future Diary date

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**Christian Aid Week** takes place on the 14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017

## Women's World Day of Prayer Report – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

The Friend's Meeting House in The Parade, Marlborough was the venue for this year's Marlborough Service which took the form of a Quiet Prayer Meeting. Sixteen worshippers gathered in the warm meeting room and Eileen Nancarrow led the prayers, focussing on the theme 'Am I being fair to you?' that women of the Philippines had planned. Numbers were higher than last year and we found it a helpful meeting. In the afternoon nine of us from Marlborough were given a very warm welcome when we attended a packed Methodist Church Service in Pewsey where Kate Trowbridge spoke about the parable of the vineyard owner who paid all his workers the same daily rate however many hours they had worked. Both these services were well attended and this shows that the WWDofP has a meaningful place in our calendar.

As I stand down as Secretary [after six years] please consider and pray if you could fulfil this non arduous role. It takes only a few meetings and some organisation. I do not plan to leave the committee and would be happy to show someone what is needed, so that we can move forward.

*Gillian Watson*

## Revd Dr Janneke Blokland Update

St Mary's Curate, Janneke Blokland, will be taking up her new post as Assistant Chaplain at Marlborough College on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017. Janneke's last Sunday with the Team will be on Easter Sunday in St Mary's. We will have a Farewell Service on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 10.00am in St Mary's, followed by a Bring and Share lunch. All very welcome.

## St Non's Retreat, 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> September

'Travelling Lightly' is the topic for the 15th retreat at this beautiful site on the Pembrokeshire coast and will be led by Sarah Musgrave who writes:-

How often do we review our priorities, put our personal world in better order and find space to consider becoming the person God intends us to be?

Sometimes it is refreshingly simple. At other times reflecting on our lives and particularly our spiritual lives can be more challenging. Do we waste our energy on thoughts or activities that weigh us down, and leave little time or energy for new insights and hearing the still small voice within?

My outlook on life is informed by my faith, my family and through being a psychotherapist. I plan to offer time and space to explore 'travelling lightly'.

Our numbers are limited, so note the dates and book with Barney Rosedale:

Phone: 512205 or email: barney.rsdl@gmail.com

*‘All journeys have secret destinations of which the traveller is unaware.’ – Martin Buber*

The image of a journey is used for all sorts of things. The journey of life, faith, the universe, hope, our soul ... Think of anything and surely someone has already written a book about it. Journeying is one of the most used images in religious language, possibly even overused. However, thinking not so much about the journey itself, but about the destination may give us some fresh insights – or at least, that was true for me.

The first thing to say is that the destination in itself is significant; it is not all about the journey. When you go on holiday, you may enjoy the journey, but also you have chosen the destination for a particular reason. When you study for a degree, the learning is important, but the end-product, whether that is a thesis or a piece of paper that allows you to find a job, is not insignificant either.

That is also true spiritually, for example our Lenten journey leading towards Easter. We aspire in Lent to grow in faith and grow closer to God, but equally we prepare to celebrate that crucial moment in our history: the resurrection of Jesus on the first Easter morning. Thinking about Lent and Easter, we also observe the contrast between the solemnity of the journey and the joy of the destination, so to speak.

This second observation is true for many journeys and destinations. Think for example about pilgrimages: a hard journey culminating in arriving at a holy place. Or more mundane, a building project: hard work leading to a beautiful new or refurbished building – have a look into St Mary’s Church over the next few weeks to see for yourself!

Together these two reflections make us aware of a third truth about destinations, expressed by the quote of the Jewish philosopher Martin Buber: often there are other destinations, or outcomes, of which we were unaware when we started our journey. When we start studying, we may discover an interest that leads us to a destination other than we had planned. Or, in our journey towards Easter, we may come across unexpected insights too, about God, or indeed about ourselves.

Maybe that is then the paradox of destinations: we have to choose a particular one to start us on our journey and not lose sight of it too easily, but having arrived, we may find ourselves at that secret, but true, destination, of which we were initially unaware.

I hope that this Easter we may find ourselves having travelled to that very destination.

**The many friends and extended family of Janet Snelgrove were very sad to hear she had died on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Our sympathy to Geoffrey. More details next month.**

**Tony Coups** died on the 23rd October at Great Western Hospital after bearing the strain of illness for several years. He was born in Harrow-on-the-Hill, attended the Salvatorian College and followed his father into the printing industry. He and Rosemary married in 1964 and they subsequently moved to Ducks Meadow with Catherine and Mark in 1983. Tony travelled extensively on business and socially with his family. His main interests were sailing, motor vehicles, gadgets, music, DIY and his garden in Ducks Meadow. He is sadly missed by his family, friends in Marlborough and beyond.

We have fond memories of **Don Lee**, who died recently, and admired the way he cared for Bernice when she was ill. Don arrived in Marlborough in August 1964, to work at the Lloyds Bank branch. From early adulthood, he had always been an active member of the bell ringing fraternity, and immediately joined the team at St Mary's where he was Tower Captain for many years. He was Treasurer of the PCC for 25 years and was involved with many other clubs and societies based in the town. Don leaves his two sons, Richard and Andrew, and three grandchildren. Our sympathy to all the family

**Deirdre and Alan Rix** have settled down in Highfield Residential Home and their daughter, Alison, is taking them their special possessions. Deirdre came to Savernake Hospital, living in the Nurses Home, aged 17 to test her feelings about nursing as a career. She trained in Winchester and did midwifery at West Middlesex. They were married in Bournemouth in 1957. They lived in various places including the Ogbourne Smallpox Nurses Home and the Meade Children's Home, where Deirdre was Matron, before the family moved to a new house in Reeds Ground 48 years ago. Alison and her late sister Sarah went to Marlborough schools. Alan was Secretary at Savernake Hospital and a member of the Rotary Club. Deirdre has been an active member of St Mary's Church. We wish them both many happy years in Highfield.

**Jenny and Peter Cossey** were looking to downsize and found their ideal flat in Devizes near their daughter, Susan and Alan Cox. They come back often and meet old friends while shopping.





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# Marlborough Churches Together

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Usual Sunday service times

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

9.00am Worship

10.30am Morning Service with Junior Church & 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 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 & 3rd Sundays)

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

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP on 4th Sundays)

10.00am All Age Worship (1st Sunday):

Parish Communion, Junior Church & crèche on all other Sundays

5.30 pm Informal service (except on 1st Sunday)

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

11.00 am 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: 10.30 am Wednesday

**St Thomas More** Mass: 10.00 am Mon, Tues, Wed & Sat

Holy Days: 10.00 am

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

## From the Registers

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**Baptism:** 26 February - Eddie Holman at St George's

**Departed:** 8 February - Albert Smith (92) of 2 York Place, Marlborough  
*Kingsdown Crematorium*

12 February - Stephen Hedley Roff (75) of 33 Lainey's Close, Marlborough  
*Kingsdown Crematorium*

20 February - Jean Elizabeth Alexander (86) formerly of Marlborough  
*St Mary's & Marlborough Cemetery*

5 March – Janet Elizabeth Snelgrove (82) of 4 Avalon Court, Marlborough  
*Kingsdown Crematorium and St Mary's*

9 March – Donald (Don) Edward Lee (89) of 4 Poulton Crescent, Marlborough  
*Kingsdown Crematorium and St Mary's*

## **MARLBOROUGH SPRING FAIR – Celebrate Spring and Summer!**

A fundraising event for Cancer Research UK

Date: SUNDAY 9 APRIL

Venue: Norwood Hall, Marlborough College, Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 1PA

Time: 10am – 4pm

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[www.marlboroughcancerresearch.org](http://www.marlboroughcancerresearch.org)

Further details from Anne: 07887 924539  
email:[anne@marlboroughcancerresearch.org](mailto:anne@marlboroughcancerresearch.org)

# Marlborough Church Contacts

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**The Revd Heather Cooper**

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*Minister, Christchurch Methodist*

**The Revd Miri Keen**

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*Team Vicar, Marlborough Anglican Team*

**The Revd Dr David Maurice**

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*Member, The Religious Society of Friends*

**The Revd Canon Andrew**

**Studdert-Kennedy**  
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*Team Rector, Marlborough Anglican Team*

~~~~~

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**Laura Willis**

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

## Family News continued.....

**Stewart Dobson's** newest grandchild was less than 12 hours old when I met **Marian** in the High St and she told me that Christopher and Laura have a son, a baby brother for little Isla. Stewart and Marian now have 10 grandchildren! Family parties will be real fun.

**Peg Siddall's** 100th birthday is on April 9th. She was born at 143 High St (where Costa is now) above the family shoe shop (Mundy's) which had been running since 1889. Her brother, Jim, was born above their other shop at 5 High Street. After her marriage to George Still they lived in Middlesex and Berkshire and in 1957 went to South Africa where George died in 1960. Peg came home with their three children, Margaret, Jennifer and Richard. Peg has 7 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren and 2 great great grandsons. In 1973 Peg married John Siddall, a ski shooting instructor who had trained three Olympic teams. She has been a regular member of Christchurch congregation. Her birthday will be celebrated by relatives from South Africa, New Zealand and the USA. Happy Birthday Peg!

## Tower and Town staff

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All items for the May issue by **Tuesday 11th April**.

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