

# TOWER<sub>AND</sub>TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES.

NUMBER 648 MAY 2015



## Making a Difference

This month we all have a chance to make a difference to our lives and the lives of others in two quite different ways: first by exercising our democratic responsibility at the polls; secondly by contributing to the work of Christian Aid.

Christian Aid is 70 years old this year, and in recognition of this fact I have asked a number of people to write not just about the work of that particular charity, but also about aid projects in general such as the Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust, the Shonda Project, and a local community project initiated by St Mary's. Each in its own way provides stark evidence of the mutual benefit of reaching out that helpful hand of friendship.

On the political front there is an obvious opportunity for us all to make a difference in the forthcoming General Election. The brief I have given each of our five prospective Parliamentary candidates is to write about ways in which they would like to make a difference to our lives should they be elected to represent us on May 7th. They have generously responded despite the busyness of their schedules and I hope that what they have said, in conjunction with an awful lot more that will have been said in the run-up to polling day, will help inform you as to how you can play your part in choosing the difference that you want to make.

I suppose if you think that we live in a perfect world, you can sit back, twiddle your thumbs and do nothing. Alternatively if you want to make a difference, you really can do something about it.

**David Du Croz**, *Editor*

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## Christian Aid: Ian Perryman

*Ian Perryman writes on behalf of the Marlborough Christian Aid Committee, and describes some of the work that goes on. Anyone able to help with collections during the forthcoming Christian Aid Week should contact Ian directly (01672-514550 or [ian.perryman@onetel.net](mailto:ian.perryman@onetel.net))*

As I am sure you all know, Christian Aid Week is fast approaching (**10th until 16th May**), and your local committee will once again be getting into gear organizing the arrangements. As we do this, I think back to earlier times and who was then involved: past chairs have been Peter Hardman in the 70's (later Canon of Salisbury), Jeremy Walsh (later Bishop of Tewkesbury), and, when I joined, the redoubtable Bill Spray.

In more recent times Tricia Cavil and Bryan Castle have led the team, but the format of our endeavours has changed with the times. The blanket house-to-house collections have ceased, with a more targeted method being substituted, and thanks to the closer involvement of Marlborough Churches Together the overall amounts collected have remained similar. In-Church and High Street collections are better received, and better supported, not forgetting the "Hunger Lunch" on Good Friday which is anything but hungry, but a great time for getting together after the Procession of Witness in the High Street.

Another strength in having a local committee "on standby" is that we are able to mount at speed Special Appeals which are usually supported on television by Head Office, for example Ebola and Gaza last year, and Kenya this year. We are strongly supported in materials and speakers by our regional Head Office in Bristol, so thankfully never feel out on a limb!

All is not hard graft - we are happy to enjoy ourselves as we go, and anyone wishing to help will be welcomed with open arms. There are at most four committee meetings a year, with e-mails taking care of everything else. It is an astonishingly well-oiled machine, and very fulfilling, I promise you.

### **Michele Guinness**

talking about her latest novel

### **Archbishop**

(a riveting and relevant imagined story of the first female Archbishop of Canterbury)

**7.30pm Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May**

**St Mary's Church, Marlborough**

Tickets £3.50 Available from Mustard Seed 01672 511611

## The Shonda Project: Simon Mills

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*Simon Mills talks about Shonda, an aid project in Kenya with close associations with St Mary's Church.*

The Shonda Project started over 20 years when Angela and Mick Prentice saw children begging by the Likoni ferry, near Mombasa, Kenya. They chose to try and do something about it, eventually finding a local pastor who was trying to start a school for poor children. In the early years Angela and Mick took money out when they could to pay for building work and teachers. Little did they know then that their decision to make a difference would result in the establishment of a school that has educated many thousands of children, is highly regarded within the local community, and today has 350 pupils between the ages of 3 to 12.

As we look back over the 22 years much has been achieved. Although poverty is still a major problem we have been able to fund a feeding programme ensuring that all children can receive a school meal, so we no longer hear stories of children peeling the paint off the walls to eat, or not attending school because of malnourishment. Other key achievements include:

- Building management capability so there is an effective management in place in Kenya to run the school with a particular focus on governance and accountability. The importance of this cannot be overstressed as without it we would not have confidence to know how the money is used locally and hence be accountable to our sponsors.
- Provision of running water - something we take for granted but, through the generosity of Pinewood School, we were able to install a pump and water tank to bring water into the school.
- A computer lab was established that is providing computer training to the teachers, pupils and also others in the community
- One of our pupils managed to achieve excellent results in his end of school exams and is now at a 'national' boarding school receiving an excellent education, in part supported by the Shonda Project.

Unfortunately Kenya has significant problems with corruption and although the trust we have built up, backed up by the controls we've put in place, has protected us, we have had issues over the years. This has served to further strengthen the bonds between Shonda and ourselves.

We are a very small charity with around a dozen people in the core team split between Redhill and Marlborough. Despite this we are currently able to send around £2000 each month out to Shonda, largely to pay for the teacher's salaries. This is

only made possible through the generosity of individuals and locally, Pinewood School and St Mary's Church.

Whilst we can't foresee where the project will be in another 20 years we do have some ambitious plans for the next 5 years. Many of the school buildings are in need of repair or replacement and we are hoping to undertake a major rebuilding programme within the next 2 years. In preparation for this we are undertaking a local survey to better understand the community needs and see how we can use our money to deliver the best results for the Shonda community. Perhaps this will include a facility to provide adult education and small business development, as well as providing health care support that integrates into existing local services.

There will be an opportunity to hear more about the Shonda Project at an afternoon tea on **Sunday 5th July at the Kennet Valley Hall 3-5pm**. This is for supporters of the project and those of you who may be interested in getting involved with fundraising activities! We'll be able to share some latest pictures showing how the site has developed over the years through UK funding, an update from the school and development needs for 2015/16. Please let Carolyn Gittins know if you'd like to join us (01672 861591 or carogittins@hotmail.co.uk). Children welcome - lots of space to play outside!

There is more information available at [www.shonda.org.uk](http://www.shonda.org.uk). If you would like to support the Shonda Project or for more information please contact Simon (01672-861632 or [simon@clatford.org](mailto:simon@clatford.org)).

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## **Recycling**

Do you dislike waste and sometimes throw something away that you think still has useful life?

Have you considered passing it on to someone else that may appreciate it?

Would you like to be able to ask for things that you think others may have but don't need anymore?

If the answer to any of these is "Yes", then visit the following website for more information:- [https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/kennet\\_free-recycling/info](https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/kennet_free-recycling/info).

Kennet free-recycling is an email-based system for finding homes for things so that they don't go to land-fill. You can apply to join by sending an email to [kennet\\_free-recycling-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:kennet_free-recycling-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

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## Love Thy Neighbour As Thyself: Janneke Blockland

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*Janneke Blokland writes on the theme of 'Love your neighbour as yourself' as she describes some local community aid.*

One of the two great Christian commandments is to love our neighbours as ourselves. There are many different ways of showing love for our neighbours, and one of them is offering practical support to our neighbours in need. This is exactly what a group of enthusiastic parishioners of St Mary's Church have decided to do. Since last autumn a substantial number of people within the congregation have been involved in offering a helping hand to people in our local community. Projects until now have included gardening, painting and redecorating. The aim of the initiative is to reach out to the wider community beyond the Church and to offer support where it is needed most.

An important aspect of the project is working together with the people who are in need, instead of 'sorting things out' for them. Having been involved in a couple of projects now, I am struck by how much fun it actually is to work together with others and really get something done in only one or two days' time. The projects have already made a great difference to all those involved, both to those on the giving and on the receiving end of the work.

There are many ways to be involved in the project: apart from the painting and gardening itself, there are people sewing, dog-walking, praying and making cakes for the well-deserved tea breaks – maybe the most important contribution of all!

Although the initiative was taken by a group of parishioners within St Mary's Church, I would like to encourage everyone to think if and how you could be involved as well. What started for me as a sense of shared responsibility towards my neighbours, has been transformed into a sense of privilege to be able to work with and for others in this very practical way.

### **WE NEED YOU!**

*A vacancy has arisen for a volunteer to take on the role of **Event Organiser** within the Marlborough Local Fundraising Group for **Cancer Research UK**. This enjoyable and rewarding role will involve organising, along with the other volunteers in the fundraising team, the annual Feast of Food event held in October. Some knowledge of computing would be useful, good communication and team-working skills, and enthusiasm for charity fundraising is needed. For more information, visit [www.marlboroughcancerresearch.org](http://www.marlboroughcancerresearch.org) to see what the team does. All enquiries to [anne@marlboroughcancerresearch.org](mailto:anne@marlboroughcancerresearch.org)*

## **The Marlborough Brandt Group Lecture: Martha Harrison**

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*Martha Harrison, a Year 9 pupil from Marlborough College Malaysia, reviews Baroness Cox's Marlborough Brandt Group Lent Lecture "The Pain and the Passion - the privilege of making a difference".*

Baroness Cox first introduced herself and HART (Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust), an organization that helps the small communities and villages that the large aid organisations are not able to reach. Throughout her talk, Baroness Cox told us a lot of outstanding stories, yet I feel one really sums up what HART does quite well. It is the story of how a boy called Sala from a very remote village in Burma called out to HART, and told them of the many people dying of easily preventable medical issues. HART then helped Sala to create a medical school, where people from the small villages of Burma can have a medical education and find the right medicines and equipment to survive.

We started off in Azerbaijan, where Baroness Cox opened her first rehabilitation centre. It was incredible to hear about the passion and determination she had for helping others. We then “jetted off” to Burma! Baroness Cox told a heart-wrenching story about a village so remote that you had to walk for five days to reach the nearest hospital. A boy from this village fell sick of pneumonia and a number of men tried to carry him to get treatment. Yet because of the tough terrain, they unfortunately did not make it and the boy died. After hearing this story, Baroness Cox helped supply this village and many others with the right safety equipment. Finally, we travelled to Nigeria, where we were told even more stories of how HART worked alongside the people in Nigeria, so no farmer would go out of business or no builder would be left without a job.

Altogether, I feel that everyone who came to this inspiring talk was amazed at how one organisation founded by one incredible lady can make such a positive impact on so many people's lives. And at the end, when we were all giving Baroness Cox the biggest round of applause possible, she did the humbling thing of standing up and applauding the people in the photo behind her, the children of Nigeria who despite what they had been through, were still smiling.

### **Recommended Read**

*One hundred years ago the Gallipoli campaign was in full swing. If you want to get a flavour of life on the peninsula in 1915 (and a whole lot more) I am reliably informed that you could not do better than read*

***Birds Without Wings, by Louis de Bernières***

## WWI Naval Disasters: Andrew Ross

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*Andrew Ross tells the story of two First World War naval disasters which resulted in the death of two Marlborough men.*

Although the Royal Navy had a very large fleet of warships at the outbreak of the First World War the Admiralty still felt the need to requisition further vessels for war service. Two ships belonging to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company were requisitioned in January 1915 for conversion into fast mine layers. They were commissioned for service in the North Sea with the capacity to carry four hundred mines.

On 27<sup>th</sup> May 1915 one of these ships, now known as His Majesty's Auxiliary Ship Princess Irene, was at anchor in the Medway estuary off Sheerness when she blew up. It was a catastrophic explosion and the ship was blown to smithereens. Divers going down on the wreck found practically nothing was left. Wreckage and debris was scattered up to twenty miles away. A little girl was killed on the Isle of Grain and several other local residents injured by falling debris. Of the 274 members of the ship's company only one survivor was picked up from the water.

The tragedy for the town of Sheerness was that the 76 dockyard employees working on the ship at the time were also all killed. It was a tragedy too for Marlborough as one of those to lose his life in the disaster was Commander Thomas Maurice from Manton. He was the ship's wireless officer. He had been in the Navy since 1891 and was thirty-eight years old when he was killed.

It is a strange coincidence that the Princess Irene was not the only ship to blow up in Sheerness harbour and claim the life of a Marlborough man. Some six months earlier the battleship HMS Bulwark, whilst moored at a buoy, was also blown to pieces by an internal explosion. The disaster happened shortly after breakfast on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1914. Of the ship's complement of 750 men only twelve survived. On board that day was Boy 1<sup>st</sup> Class Arthur Northcott who lived at 28, St Martins, Marlborough. He was only sixteen years old when he was killed. He had served in the Navy for just over a year.

Both Thomas Maurice and Arthur Northcott are remembered on the Marlborough Town War Memorial. Thomas Maurice is also remembered on the Manton War Memorial and on a brass plaque in St George's Church. Both men are remembered on the same Commonwealth Memorial to those missing at sea on Southsea Common overlooking the Promenade. By way of further coincidence it is believed that Commander Maurice was the oldest and most senior serviceman to be

remembered on the Town War Memorial and Arthur Northcott is the youngest and most junior in rank.

### In Memoriam

Private William Cook: 1st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment; killed in action 8th January 1915.

Lance-Sergeant Herbert Pond: 1st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment; died of wounds 12th March 1915.

Private Robert John Hooper: 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Wiltshire Regiment: died of wounds at Boulogne 6<sup>th</sup> April 1915, aged 17.

Lance-Corporal James Angell: 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Wiltshire Regiment: killed in action 5<sup>th</sup> May 1915. James is remembered on the Memorial in Mildenhall Parish Church.

Commander Thomas Hector Molesworth Maurice: died when his ship blew up in Sheerness Harbour on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1915, aged 38.

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## **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.

ase go to [www.mbg.org](http://www.mbg.org). For an informal chat about the position **contact the office 01672 861116**. Please send your **CV to Nick Maurice (nick@mgb.org) by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015**.

# **CHRISTIAN AID**

This year Christian Aid celebrates its 70th anniversary. Founded in 1945 in the aftermath of the Second World War to help with the European refugee problem, it has since grown to become a worldwide charity whose aim is "a life free from poverty".

## ***Sunday 10th May***

At 10am, St Mary's Church

Marlborough Churches Together Christian Aid Service: guest speaker: **Paul Langley** (CA's Head of Fundraising) - Paul has been with Christian Aid for many years and has a wealth of experience and stories to share.



Your chance to make a difference - please give generously and make this an anniversary to remember.

## Hustings: Prospective Parliamentary Candidates

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*As May is the month of our General Election I invited each of our PPCs to describe in no more than 150 words what would be his/ her single most significant wish for this constituency, the one most important way in which he/ she would hope to make a difference to our lives were he/ she to be elected. Here in alphabetical order is their unedited response:-*

### Emma Dawnay (Green)

I am a scientist, a mother and a local. My passion is economics: the economy should work for everyone, without destroying our planet or our beautiful countryside. The economy needs “growth”, but growth based on increasing consumption of our natural resources is unsustainable.

My wish is: for my constituents to live healthy and fulfilling lives, knowing there’s a caring “safety-net” if needed, without requiring environmentally destructive “growth”. We must change the rules and invest to make this possible: to ensure everyone has a living wage; to support locally owned smaller businesses; to bring the NHS and the railways back into public ownership; to have free social care for the elderly; to build zero-carbon affordable rented housing; to insulate homes; and to make it easier to harness nature's resources to generate more renewable energy. Food banks and fuel poverty will belong to the past, and thriving local economies to the future.

### Claire Perry (Conservative)

There is one thing that I would like to change if I am fortunate enough to be re-elected as your MP: the “Why should I bother to vote” views that I encounter. Older people, especially women, often see it as a duty to vote - as one lady well into her 80s said to me this week: “Women died so that I could have a vote - and I am jolly well going to use it”. But somehow that view seems to get watered down, especially as people get younger. I know us politicians have to earn your trust - I’m not a big fan of compulsory voting and I do think the system could be changed to make it easier to vote, but above all I think that with the rights we have in a democracy come responsibilities including that of participation. So, even if you spoil your ballot papers, please do make your voice heard on this and every election day!

### David Pollitt (UKIP)

I am married with two children and have lived in Wiltshire for 24 years. Being self-employed for 26 years I can understand the everyday problems we all face,

## **Hustings (continued)**

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particularly for families and small business owners with money as tight as it is today. If elected I will work for the people in the Devizes Constituency, not for Westminster or Europe. I hate the way politicians can be elected then ignore their constituents. We need local matters decided by local people. UKIP believe in local referendums on most issues. If elected I will work to bring about affordable housing for local people, uphold UKIP's Military Covenant to assist ex-service personnel, preserve our NHS free at the point of delivery and support our farmers. I will also work hard to improve the state of the roads throughout the constituency which are appalling and beyond the finances of local government.

### **Manda Rigby (Lib Dem)**

I am an avid writer, adore football and love animals. My father was a professional footballer, so I got hooked at four, and fast forward a few years, became the first female Chairman of a football club in the top five divisions. I believe in the power of community participation in sport, and that mental and physical health is greatly improved by playing team sports. As an MP I would take a real interest in sport, and press the government to invest in public leisure centres. It's often the changing facilities that put people off, but the scope is there to make them a real hub of the community. I particularly love dogs, and my one regret is that it wouldn't be fair to keep one at present, but I know there are plenty in Marlborough to meet on my rounds!

### **Chris Watts (Labour)**

I am 48 and married with 3 children. I have dedicated much of my time since 2010 campaigning for a living wage and against zero hour contracts. I believe that achieving these goals are the bedrock to a fair and equitable society. I believe that fair wages and proper employment contracts would lift millions of hard working people out of poverty, boosting productivity and promoting health and well being, especially in the family unit. This in turn would reduce the burden on our care and social services whilst generating additional revenues to close the financial deficit, fuelling re-investment in the NHS, education, apprenticeships and services that are the measure of a civilised society in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I believe that we can build a society that leaves no-one behind and does not seek to scapegoat others or divide communities when times are hard. I believe that we can do better.

## A Poem for Easter

by David Du Croz 1984

I heard a man  
was shot in  
Crossmaglen,  
and saw my  
baby daughter  
die in bed.

I felt the shattered devastation of gun-shot shell-shocked  
cities. I heard the cries of hungry children, and saw the  
bitterness of loveless faces. And every time I saw my Lord

climb with a heavy  
heart back up onto  
his cross again.

I felt the nails and  
spear and heard  
the mercy cry,  
and saw Him  
carry off the  
pain and hurt,  
healed with a  
kiss of peace.

I wrote this poem in 1984 at a time when the news, not unlike much of what we read today, was full of stories of torment and conflict. The Irish Troubles were in full swing; the Lebanese civil war was tearing parts of the Middle East apart; famine in Africa was providing haunting pictures of starving children ("Do they know it's Christmas?" was to top the charts at the end of the year). As a family we had suffered our own tragedy when our baby daughter Sophie had died of cancer two years earlier at the age of three. It was a time when one could be forgiven for beginning to wonder if there was a loving God at all in the midst of all this pain, and there were times when my faith was wearing very thin.

Easter with its message of resurrection offered hope, but a hope that could only be reached through the suffering of Good Friday - for some the image of Easter is the empty tomb, but for me it is still the cross. I was reminded that there are no depths of human misery that Jesus through his Passion had not experienced, and in the poem I was trying to find a way of expressing how the crucifixion somehow was His way of taking on himself that whole burden of our hurt, and releasing us for the joy of the resurrection. As Isaiah says, "surely he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows." Christ's supreme sacrifice on the cross was and is every day His ultimate gift of love to us all.

**David Du Croz, 2015**

## **Short-Term Advertising in Tower and Town**

It is now 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](mailto: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.

# What's on in May

## Regular Events

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### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday

10-12 noon Library. Marlborough & District Dyslexia Association. Drop in Advice; help line 07729 452143.

### Last Sunday in Month

10am-3pm High Street Marlborough Communities Market

## May Calendar

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- 5<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) 7.15pm Town Hall. Live from ROH. Ballet: 'La Fille mal gardée'. £15 in advance, £17.50 at door.
- 6<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) The Merchant's House Guided tour of Wilton House (own transport).  
7.30pm Wesley Hall, Oxford St. WI. Talk by Mollie Gratland: Resolution 'Painting on Silk'
- 10<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) 7.30pm St Peter's Church. International Brilliant Young Pianists Concert: Louise Cournarie. £10 (£8 members)  
Car Boot Sale, Marlborough Common, starting 9am
- 11<sup>th</sup> (Monday) 2pm KVH, Lockeridge. Embroiderers' Guild. Talk by Helen Deighan: 'Going Potty'.

7.30pm Bouverie Hall, Pewsey. Pewsey Vale DFDAS. Lecture by John Ericson: 'Rene Lalique: Master Jeweller, Master Glassmaker.

13<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) 12.30-3pm 40 St Martins. Widows' Friendship Lunch. Pauline Berryman 514030

7.45pm Wesley Hall, Oxford Street. Gardening Association. Talk by Alan Gould: 'Roses'.

14<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) 7.00pm Town Hall. Live from the NT: 'Man and Superman'. £15 in advance, £17.50 at door.

16<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) 8pm St Mary's Church Hall, Silverless Street. Marlborough Folk Roots. Martin Simpson.

16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> (Sat/Sun) 10am-7pm (Saturday) 10.am-5pm (Sunday) Marlborough Common. Food & Drink Fair. Adults £7, under 16's free.

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18<sup>th</sup> (Monday) 11am Ellendune Hall, Wroughton. Kennet DFAS. Lecture by Steven Desmond: 'Harold Peto, Garden Maker of the Twentieth Century'.

7.30pm Coronation Hall, Alton Barnes. National Trust Lecture. Bill King: 'Air Transport Auxiliary'.

19<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) 7.30pm Town Hall. Live from the ENO: 'The Pirates of Penzance'. £13 in advance, £15 at door..

21<sup>st</sup> (Thursday) 7.30pm St Peter's Church. History Society Lecture by Michael Hart: 'The Vienna Congress 1815 – or how to govern Europe?'

7.30pm Town Hall. Film: 'The 100 Foot Journey' (PG), £5 in advance, £6 at door.

22<sup>nd</sup> (Friday) End of Term 5: St John's Academy.

23<sup>rd</sup> (Saturday) Start of Marlborough College Half Term

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26<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) 7.00pm St John's: Film: 'The Impressionists' (PG) £13 in advance, £15 at door.

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31<sup>st</sup> (Sunday) End of Marlborough College Half Term.

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### Friends of Savernake Hospital

58<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting  
in the Town Hall Court Room  
on Wednesday 13th May at 7.30pm

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

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**Janet and Geoffrey Snelgrove** celebrated their Diamond Wedding on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Having had family parties for their previous special anniversaries they chose to spend the week quietly in Sidmouth. But the Queen discovered where they were and sent her card to their hotel! Congratulations from us too.

**Allan Pegrum's** funeral was held at St. Mary's on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Born in Cheshunt, he came to Wiltshire in 1947. He met Phyllis at the Old Time Dances in Lockeridge and they married in Fyfield Church in 1953. They have lived in Tin Pit for 51 years. He has worked in Savernake Forest, for Gale's Bee Farm and Burt's. He loved to travel. He kept Labradors, bees and canaries and he played table tennis for many years. He helped Phyllis as a member of the Scouts Fellowship, many members were at the funeral to support the family.

**Tony Plank**, Purlyn Acre, died in March after a long illness. He is mourned by wife, Memory, and his children, Andrew, Simon and Kay. He was born in Manningford and came to Marlborough in 1977, working mainly in the building trade. Memory said that he had been a keen gardener and won prizes for his dahlias in the Annual Show in the Town Hall. Tony enjoyed his grandchildren and took special delight in his baby great-granddaughter, Imogen.

**Muriel Coburn** has died in a care home in Market Lavington. She was 87 years old. She told me that she came as a child to live in 7, The Green where her father helped manage his uncle's hardware shop. When her father died she and her mother lived in various houses here but spent a few years in Cornwall and Chippenham. They ran a sweet shop at the bottom of The Parade after the war. Muriel had an extensive knowledge of local history. When she moved from her bungalow in Manton, Anna Marsden and Sarah Holden helped with the mammoth task of sorting out her thousands of papers which Muriel wanted to go to the Merchants House.

**Audrey Tomlin** died in Aldbourne Nursing Home in February. She was Head of East Kennet School for some years, She and her husband, Reg, retired to College Fields. She was a 'people' person, always ready with happy conversation, and a keen amateur artist.

**Alec Stephens**, who died in March, was very involved with the Carnival and Fun Day committees. He leaves Marion, his wife and stepchildren, Tracey and Christopher. He and Marion met in 1962, went their separate ways, and married when they met again many years later. He ran the Queen's Head for a year in 1993, was a steward at Bromham and returned to live in the Mead. His main hobby was genealogy.

## Family News (continued)

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The Revd. Howard Gilbert, son of Eileen and Eric, will be licensed as Area Dean in the South Cotswolds on Sunday 10th May in Tetbury at 3.00pm. He has been a priest in Cirencester for the last five years since completing his Curacy in Dulwich and will have responsibilities for forty-seven parishes. Susie and Howard have two young daughters, Daisy who is four and Lucy who is two.

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## Marlborough Medical Practice Update

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Did you know...

### Missed Appointments:

In December 2014, January 2015 and February 2015, a total of 526 appointments with clinical staff were missed at the Marlborough Medical Practice.

As some of these appointments may have been for more than the standard appointment time of 10 minutes, with this time we could have seen up to 608 patients. This is roughly equivalent to all of the appointments with a GP over the course of 6 weeks.

Please help us to improve appointment availability by only booking appointments that you need, and letting us know if you are unable to attend for any reason.

We thank you for your continued help and support.



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***Rachel Rosedale for the Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group*** argues that a *more equal world is a more peaceful and happy world.*

We would ask a new government to ensure that:-

- the minimum wage is a living wage;
- people on low incomes are not forced to pay over the odds for basics like food, finance and fuel;
- taxes are fair, and that companies and individuals pay them in full;
- people with mental illnesses and/or physical disabilities are valued and treated with care and respect;
- our social security system is an effective safety net that we can call upon in time of need;
- investments are made in universal, free public services such as health and education.

## **Clergy Letter: Miri Keen writes on Christian Aid**

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A couple of years ago I was part of a Christian Aid team collecting door to door in my local area. It was about 6pm so as we carefully opened and closed gates, knocked on doors and explained our errand we could hear TVs and the general noise of domestic life in the background. People were tired but busy cooking, organising their children and looking after their gardens. From our point of view it was a good time to call because people were at home, but having been ‘on the other side of the front door’ I knew that a ring on the door bell at that time of day can add to the pressure of family life. That’s why the generosity of one household in particular is etched on my mind. I called at ‘just the wrong moment’ as they were serving their evening meal. In the midst of the dog barking and the children jumping around to see who was at the door, the householder grinned and cheerily grabbed a handful of coppers and 5ps from the loose change jar on the windowsill, reached through the open window and dropped it in my Christian Aid carrier bag.

The image of a handful of coins being offered through the open window of a slightly steamy kitchen has stayed with me because it reminds me that generosity isn’t only measured in pounds and pence. It’s also measured in terms of our willingness to reach out beyond the boundaries of our busy and demanding lives and to offer the hand of friendship to others.

The Bible tells us that human beings are created ‘in the image of God’ and as a Christian I believe that when we are generous with our time, our talents and our resources we demonstrate our connection with him. We offer something from the ‘small change jar’ of our life experience that we hope and trust will be of help to someone else. But we do more than that - we also remind one another that God, in his generosity, sent Jesus into the world to offer friendship to every human being in each generation so that we may all experience the fullness of life we long for.

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”* (John 3: 16)

### ***Brilliant Young Pianists at St Peter's Church***

**Sunday 10th May at 7.30pm**

French superstar Louise Cournarie plays Bach, Mozart, Scriabin and Schubert. Tickets £10 (£8 for MBG or St Peter's members) on the door, or from The White Horse Bookshop or Sound Knowledge.

# News from the Churches for May

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## Christian Aid

All are welcome to the joint Christian Aid service in **St Mary's Church** on **Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 am** with guest speaker: Paul Langley – Christian Aid's Head of Fundraising. More details on page 11



**Brother Samuel** from Hilfield Friary will be speaking at the **Ascension Day Service** on **Thursday May 14<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm** in **St Mary's**.

**Christchurch** will be holding a **General Church Meeting** on **Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup>**, following on from the 9am informal service.



## Regular Events

Women's Fellowship

5th May Trevor Durston, Leprosy Mission.

12<sup>th</sup> May Rev Heather Cooper

19<sup>th</sup> May Alison Harris

26<sup>th</sup> May No meeting

All welcome to the meetings, held at Christchurch at 2.45pm.



**The Filling Station** meets on **Wednesday May 20<sup>th</sup>**, 7.30pm at St Peter's School, Marlborough. The speaker will be Tony Martin, who is pastor of Mid-Somerset Community Church in Glastonbury and a practising artist. He has spoken at Filling Station on a number of occasions and we have been richly blessed by his teaching and ministry.



**Hangout @ Devotion** continues to meet weekly on Thursdays from 7 – 8.30pm for ages 11 – 14. Please

**Hangout@Devotion**

continue to pray for this venture. There is a need for more volunteers to help at the sessions which are well attended by the young people. No experience is necessary – just an ability to cope with enthusiasm and noise. For more info contact Peta at [devotionyouthproject@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:devotionyouthproject@hotmail.co.uk)

The **Fraternal** meet on **Wednesday May 6<sup>th</sup>**. Please contact Alison Selby ([alison@crossmead.net](mailto:alison@crossmead.net)) if there any comments you would like discussed.



## News from the Churches continued

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### Special Events

**Bank Holiday Monday May 4<sup>th</sup> – A Journey of Discovery** - an informal family Pilgrimage Walk of 5 miles following part of the South West Coastal Path to St Adhelm's Head. Meet at **St Mary's** at **9am** to finish about 5.30pm. For more information contact Janneke Blokland: 515970 / jblokland@gmail.com



**Tuesday May 5th - Archbishop**, a novel by Michele Guinness, who is coming to speak about the book at **St Mary's, Marlborough**, at **7.30pm**. The book is set in 2020 when the Church of England is in dire straits. Yet one woman is making a difference in her diocese, and when she is appointed Archbishop of Canterbury, anything could happen... More details from Mustard Seed (511611). For tickets, see page 2.



**Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup> - Thamesdown Ladies Choir 7.30pm at Christchurch.** More details from Maurice Smith. (514602)



**Sunday May 24<sup>th</sup> - Sunday Lunch Club, 12 noon** at Christchurch. The lunches really are not purely for those 'of a certain age'. They are open to anyone of any age. For just £8 you will receive a roast dinner and sweet followed by a hot drink but, more importantly, is the opportunity to talk informally with others. Booking a meal couldn't be simpler - leave a message in the church office (513701) by noon on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May.



**Lent 2015 – A Christian Reading of the Psalms**

We were blessed by lively and entertaining talks from Rev Dr Knut Heim giving us an understanding of the Psalms and how they can be used to strengthen and encourage our Christian faith.

"I have been given new insights into the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm – The Lord is my Shepherd – and the eating habits of sheep"

If you have any helpful feedback or suggestion for future Lent sessions, please contact Alison Selby, (alison@crossmead.net; 511128)

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# 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 (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays)

10.00am All Age Worship (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)

Parish Communion (other Sundays)

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

8.00am Holy Communion BCP (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday)

9.30am Parish Communion (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)

Parish Communion, Junior Church & crèche on all other Sundays

5.30pm Informal service (except on 1<sup>st</sup> 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 George's**

Tea Time followed by Evening Prayer : 4.30pm Wednesday.

### **St Thomas More**

Mass: 10.00am Mon, Tues, Wed & Sat

Holy Days: 10.00am

# Marlborough Church Contacts

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**Fr John Blacker** 513267  
marlborough@catholicweb.org.uk  
*Parish Priest, St Thomas More RC Church*

**The Revd Dr Janneke Blokland**  
515970; jblokland@gmail.com  
*Team Curate, Marlborough Anglican Team*

**The Revd Dr David Campbell**  
892209; dc@marlboroughcollege.org  
*Chaplain, Marlborough College*

**The Revd Heather Cooper** 512457  
heather.cooper432@btinternet.com  
*Minister, Christchurch, Methodist*

**The Revd Miri Keen** 513408  
miri.marlbroughteam@gmail.com  
*Team Vicar, Marlborough Anglican Team*

**The Revd Dr David Maurice** 514119  
david\_maurice2000@yahoo.com  
*Associate Minister, Anglican Team*

**Rachel Rosedale** 512205  
rachelrosed1@gmail.com  
*Member, The Religious Society of Friends*

**The Revd Canon Andrew Studdert-Kennedy** 514357  
andrewsk1959@btinternet.com  
*Team Rector, Marlborough Anglican Team*

~~~~~  
**Alison Selby** 511128  
alison@crossmead.net  
Crossmead, Kingsbury Street, SN8 1HU  
*Secretary, Marlborough Churches Together*

**Andrew Trowbridge** 513701  
office@christchurchmarlborough.org.uk  
Christchurch Office, New Road, SN8 1AH

**Laura Willis** 512357  
marlb.anglicanteam@tiscali.co.uk  
Anglican Team Office, Church Cottage  
Silverless Street SN8, 1JQ

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**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 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 Revd Janneke Blokland email: [jblokland@gmail.com](mailto:jblokland@gmail.com)

## From the Registers

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### Weddings:

10 Apr – Kate Morton and Clyde Robertson at St George's

### Departed:

21 Feb – James 'Jim' Nicholson (81) of Coombe End Court, Marlborough  
*Kingsdown Crematorium*

26 Feb – Charles Iain James Randall (33) of East Grafton Farm House,  
East Grafton  
*St Mary's and Kingsdown Crematorium*

28 Feb – Anne-Marie Loosmore (91) of The Cedars Residential Home, Purton  
*Semington Crematorium*

4 Mar – Trevor 'Allan' Pegrum (85) of Sunnyside, Tinpit, Marlborough  
*St Mary's and Marlborough Cemetery*

14 Mar – Harry Beckhough (101) of 44 Castle Court, Marlborough  
*St Mary's and Kingsdown*

18 Mar – Elizabeth Anne Gadsby (87) of Highfield Residential Home  
*St Mary's and Semington Crematorium*

22 Mar – Derrick Russell Fry (84) of The Old Forge, George Lane, Marlborough  
*St George's and Churchyard*

23 Mar – Reginald 'Reggie' Roland Jackson (77) of 17 Church House, Wanborough  
*St Mary's and Marlborough Cemetery*

26 Mar – Mary Bernadette 'Bee' Sherwood (74) of 3 Macneice Drive, Marlborough  
*Semington Crematorium*

29 Mar – Mary Joyce Howard (68) of 6 Manton Close, Manton  
*St Mary's and Marlborough Cemetery*

## Tower and Town staff

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<b>Chairman</b>	John Osborne, 36 St Martins, SN8 1AS jeo66@btinternet.com	514364
<b>Vice Chairman</b> (Operations)	Andrew Unwin, Sarsen House, The Street, All Cannings Devizes, SN10 3PA    afunwin@yahoo.co.uk	01380 860120
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<b>Treasurer</b>	Peter Astle, 4 Laurel Drive, SN8 2SH	515395

### Production Teams

#### *June*

Editor	Alexander Kirk Wilson	513069
Compiler	Hugh de Saram    hugh@desaram.co.uk	516830

#### *July*

Editor	Sara Holden    saraholden22@hotmail.com	515370
Compiler	Peter Noble    peter@kingsburysquare.org.uk	519034

### **Every Month**

<i>What's On</i>	Karen Osborne:    karenos64@btinternet.com 36 St Martins, SN8 1AS	514364
<i>News from the Churches</i>	Alison Selby    alison@crossmead.net Crossmead, Kingsbury St SN8 1HU	511128
<i>Family News</i>	Audrey Peck    rogandaud@aol.com 7 Castle Court, Marlborough SN8 1XG	289065

**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 12 May**.

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