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# TOWER<sub>AND</sub>TOWN

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**Marlborough St Mary's  
Primary School**

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DECEMBER 2022/JANUARY 2023

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# TOWER<sup>AND</sup>TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

NUMBER 732 DECEMBER 2022/JANUARY 2023



## **Be brilliant, be bold and be kind. Attitudes promoted and supported at Marlborough St Mary's**

Where can you meet Aladdin, the Vikings, Stone Age people, endangered animals and World War Heroes all in one place? These are some examples of the creative and diverse curriculum topics that we provide at Marlborough St Mary's Primary School. A sample of the inspiring work created from these topics is included in this magazine.

The purpose-built school, which has been on its current site since 2018, has a dedicated staff working with the children to achieve great learning every year. As a modern primary school we have excellent facilities including an all-purpose, all weather sports area, dance studio, dedicated Media Suite and Resource Base. We even have our own radio station and School Dog, Woody!

We welcome those of all faiths and none, and as a Church of England school we draw inspiration from the Bible but particularly the story of Jesus and the Fishermen. We believe that together we can achieve great things and we make no secret of our ambition to be one of the very best primary schools in the country. We are truly proud to serve a diverse and multi-cultural community that places kindness and wellbeing at the heart of everything we do.

This is a place where we expect everyone to be brilliant, bold and kind. We support everyone to succeed and have some fun on the way!

**Together we will believe, learn and achieve.**

**Ben Lawrence, Class teacher**

Cover picture: 'Harvest' by Noah Dillon (*See page 11*)

# Year 4 Writing

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*Year 4 children have been engaged by their fiction book, *Why the Whales Came* by Michael Morpurgo, to create descriptions of one of the main characters, Birdman. They were so inspired by the whales in the story that they wrote some non-fiction writing about why they sing.*

## Description of Birdman

Harry Reader

The Birdman was a stooped, old figure with a crow black Sou'wester which he wore on his head. He had a jet black cape which was covered in marks from the flock of screaming seagulls that followed him everywhere. A kittiwake, which sat on his shoulder like a parrot, made him look like a pirate. That was because he was once part of Black Beard's crew and was marooned in Rushy Bay many years ago. The Birdman spoke in a monotone and only talked to himself or to his animals. He had wrinkles that were all over his bone-white, rough skin that were caused by the salt and sea air. His breath was like blood and he wore a bumpy, black eye patch over his left eye. Some said he was the Devil himself or weird or even mad. The people of the island said that if you were touched by the Birdman you would end up cursed, just like him...

## Why do whales sing?

Imogen Smith

Underwater, it is very hard to see because light does not travel very far through water. Odours are hard to smell underwater and so whales communicate using sound. It is very important that they use sound because, as they can't see, they rely on their hearing. You may think all whales sing but not all of them do. Only a group of whales called Baleen whales sing. Baleen whales also have hairs in their mouths that help them to eat their food. The types of whales that sing are Minke Whales, Blue Whales, Humpback Whales, Fin Whales and Bowhead Whales. Toothed whales don't sing but instead they communicate using types of short sounds. These whales are animals that hunt for their prey in groups and use their teeth to kill their prey. The sounds they use to communicate are clicks, whistles, groans and trills.

Scientists think they have some evidence that explains why whales sing. Scientists think it may be fun for whales or they might sing to mark their territory or to attract females and communicate with their young.

### Reasons to sing

Male humpback whales will sing for twenty-two hours to mate. Other reasons to sing are to fend off and warn rivals away so they can't mate with the female, to stop trespassing into feeding and breeding grounds, to co-ordinate migration and to communicate with their young.

### How whales communicate

Communication is challenging underwater. Orders will be washed away and sight doesn't work because the sun's rays don't reach deeper down. So a whale's last resort is sound. You can hear groans, moans, clicks and trills.

### Who sings?

Toothed whales use clicks, whistles and cries to communicate but they do not compose them into a song. The species of whales that do sing are called Humpback, Blue Fin, Bowhead and Minke. These are all baleen whales.

## Year 5 Writing

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*As part of their topic learning about the Vikings, the children have been reading Viking Boy by Tony Bradman. They explored the character of Gunnar and wrote a diary entry from his point of view after his father was savagely attacked and the Valkyrie arrived.*

### A diary entry from Gunnar

Alex Braithwaite

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Dear Diary,

Startled, I woke up to the sound of a roaring fire and the horrified screams of panicking people. My heart racing, I quickly got up and rushed over to my parents. Smoke was curling from the roof, people were running around, so I quickly shook my parents awake and told them what was happening. I could tell my father was nervous, but he just stood up and everyone went silent. Trying hard not to cry, I glanced at my mother, who looked terrified. I knew we needed to get out of the longhouse, but I waited for Father to talk.

With a worried expression, Father told all the men to grab a weapon, I didn't know what to do. I was overwhelmed, I could feel my hairs stand on end. Slowly, Father and his men opened the door, but as quick as a flash, a flaming arrow shot through the crack in the door and one of the men dropped dead. In the blink of an

eye, the door was shut. Everyone looked terrified. I knew we had to get out, but the raiders probably had the building circled. I looked at Father, who said that he was going to go and see the raiders! I knew there was a large chance he could die, but he was going to risk it! With tears swelling in my eyes, he opened the door and walked outside. I held my breath but nothing happened, then I heard a yell and a thud - it couldn't be! I quickly rushed to the door and the sight I saw made my heart stop. In front of me, twelve large men wielding swords and bows looked at me, their eyes were wild. They had wolf skin cloaks and in the flickering fire light, I could just make out two humongous black dogs straining on their leashes, their red bloodthirsty eyes reflecting in the moon light! Without thinking, I approached them and looked down at Father's body lying on the floor covered in blood. I was outraged! I ran at them and tried to punch them and kick them, but it was no use as they pinned me to the floor! I thought I was going to die, however Mother ran at them clutching Father's sword. She tried to free me, but could not get to me and she got lifted up and stopped. I knew we were dead!

Feeling helpless, I closed my eyes, but seconds later I felt the grip loosen. I slowly opened my eyes. Was I dead? In a second, I realised I was still at the long house. I saw the men and Mother. I quickly looked around and in the sky I could make out the shape of three warriors riding massive wolves with grey hair and pointy, white fangs. I looked closer and saw the warriors had long, sharp spears and pointed raven helmets. I couldn't believe it, they were Valkyries! Slowly, the Valkyries landed and dismounted the wolves. They walked over to Father's body and one of them asked 'Who is this?' For a few seconds nobody spoke, but I eventually brought up the courage to speak. 'It is my father.' The Valkyrie looked at me with cold eyes then picked father up and placed him in a net strapped to two wolves, mounted the wolf and flew away.

## **A diary entry from Gunnar**

**Scarlett Rogerson**

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Dear Diary,

My heart pounding, Skuli smirking, mother howling, hounds whimpering, village people questioning, wolf men jeering. This had to be a horrendous nightmare. The full moon glittered sympathetically in the scarlet sky like a shimmering angel leashed to the land of the dead. An asteroid was pummelling closer, illuminating golden rays of light which made it look like the gargantuan slither of light was in disguise as some species of god! Wait, it was some sort of mythical creature... Valkyries. I'd read about them in Father's precious novel of Gods and Goddesses, the one with the thick, elegant spine and beautiful illustrations in emerald, amethyst, sapphire, amber and ruby! Salty tears formed in my eyes, yet I tried to fight them

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**Philip Singleton** The Oxen (Hardy) (soloist)

**César Franck** Symphony in D Minor

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back. A gasp spread around the room, as the Valkyries landed with an ear-damaging ‘thump!’ My eyes nearly popped out of their sockets! A trio of tall figures sat on three silver eight legged wolves, growling softly. The endless sea of black curls were disguised under her spotless, silver helmet but her huge eyes were like two black pools. Each Valkyrie was heavenly layered in shining chainmail armour which made me feel slightly intimidated. Their snow-white hands lifted father and then the centred one spoke, “Who is the guilty murderer of Bjorn Siggurdson? Show yourself you coward!” The wolf men took several nervous steps back, while the rest of us pointed an accusing finger at the revolting gorilla, who was trembling furiously.

“It was not murder,” Skuli replied, rolling his bloodshot eyes. “He asked for it.”

“Bjorn would never do such a thing!” Mother screamed. “He died a hero, while you vermin will die filthy cowards!”

The Valkyrie blinked her glimmering eyes innocently. “Who speaks for Bjorn Siggurdson?”

I courageously staggered forward. “I am Gunnar Siggurdson, son of Bjorn. I speak for him. He was a hero!”

The Vaklyries rose into the frosty air, but I sprinted to the captain and said, “Please, don’t go! How can I save myself?” I looked up into her glimmering eyes, desperate.

“Only the norms know your fate child.” She smiled eerily in the moonlight and only until she had ascended into a black silhouette against the sunrise, only then did I realise I never understood her answer...

## Year 6 Writing

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*Year 6 have been studying the topic, ‘Lest We Forget’ and learning about World War Two. In English, they have taken inspiration from a short animation, ‘The Piano’ by Aidan Gibbons.*

### **A narrative based on the animation ‘The Piano’ by Aidan Gibbons**

**Eve Lucas**

---

Alone in the darkened room, with only the piano for company, the wizened old man’s delicate fingers swept across the piano keys as if they were dancing. The melody was the only thing he played even though it was the last and only thing he had to remember her by. Glancing at his gnarled hands, he recognised the golden

glint of his wedding ring. Gazing up, his eyes became unfocused as his music carried him through his past. The hands that had once touched found one another once more. Next to him, he recalled her back home, back to where they had once played together. Like two waltzing dancers, the two different hands started their duet that they had never completed. Her gaze followed to his face and he smiled as she kissed him goodbye.

The memory faded as he remembered that she was gone, gone to where he couldn't reach her. Unlike the memory, his love for her would never be swayed, for he loved her and nothing would make this love fade.

## **A narrative based on the animation 'The Piano' by Aidan Gibbons**

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**Rocco Watts**

As the melody continued, the man played the sweet tune that he had played many times before until he heard a deafening sound of fireworks. The fireworks sounded like blasting gun shots and that was when the putrid memory began. Shock was going through the man's body and before he knew it, he felt a heavy burden on his head.

With legs full of speed, the man ran towards the ancient wall. It was once a beautiful building, now just a cobbled mess. The wall was uncomfortable and rocky but it was the only bit of shelter left. Searching his pockets frantically, the man's grenade was nowhere in sight. Nevertheless, he still nodded to his friend so he could attack. Without any notice, his poor friend was shot in the battle scene.

Guilt rising from the man's body and at full speed, he rushed towards his dying comrade. It was too late. With blood dripping everywhere, his friend had now passed and he felt that there was no one to blame but himself. He felt soulless; one of his only friends had died.

Once again, he heard the flowing melody which made him phase out of the horrifying memory that he was stuck in. Staring at the sky, the man was relieved he was out of the terrible memory but still guilty at what he had done. Tearfully, he played the sweet melody one more time.

## **A narrative based on the animation 'The Piano' by Aidan Gibbons**

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**Georgia Riches**

As the man was playing his piano, he peered down at his hands and saw his gold wedding ring, it reminded him of when his wife was alive and loved to play the piano with him. He recalled all the delightful and heart-breaking moments that he had spent with her and just wished that she was still there to keep him company

and make him laugh. As he remembered the feeling of her soft, warm lips on his cheek his memories of her started slowly fading away. He was alone again. As he remembered his wife dying, it reminded him of another person he was also very close to...

His name was Harry and he was his only brother. They had both joined the army for WW2 but were sent to different countries for training. (Harry was shipped to Poland and the man was shipped to France.) However, one day when they were fighting a particularly difficult battle, the man spotted his brother and felt a surge of joy rush through him. He made his way towards him and they fought side by side, then Harry spotted a break in the shooting. He ran forwards, his brother following behind him and they managed to get behind an old stone wall just before the shooting started again. The man quickly checked to make sure it was safe to shoot and he nodded at Harry to tell him it was. Harry stepped out from behind the wall and started shooting. Suddenly he collapsed. The man pulled him back behind the wall but it was too late. He had been shot. The man did his best but it wasn't enough. As Harry took his last breath, the man held his hand and looked up. He had failed to save his only brother just like he had failed to save his wife. He should have done more.

As he remembered his tragic time during WW2, he recalled that his father had fought in WW1. In WW1 they had used horses to pull the big guns up hills and when his father returned he bought the boy and his brother a toy horse for Christmas. It was just a wooden stick with a wooden horse head at the top but the boys had loved it, playing with it hour after hour, day after day. Once the man came home after the war he could almost hear the sound of him and his brother laughing and chatting as they played with the horse.

Now, his grandson (named after his brother) owned the horse. The man had passed it down to his son who had passed it on to his own son. When his grandson came to visit he played with the horse. He had so much fun with it that the man could not help but recall how much fun he and Harry used to have and felt a wave of sadness flow through him. His grandson ran around with it just the way that he and Harry had. After playing with the horse his grandson sat down next to the man and played the final note on the piano. They looked at each other warmly, sharing a wonderful moment.

## *Nature's Christmas Benison'*

Winding through a pathway in Savernake Forest recently, I was amazed to find a crop of sweet chestnuts under my feet, and the scent of them roasting on our fire later set me thinking about nature's rich contribution to December and the Christmas season.

There were acorns there too, and the sound of a hungry jay calling nearby, ready to start his winter cache. A nuthatch is another nut-hoarder, tucking away nuts into tree-bark, and sure enough I heard his loud "pwit-pwit" call a little later. Raw acorns are no good for eating but a friend reminded me that they were cooked and ground, then used as a pale substitute for coffee in the War: nowadays they often feature in Christmas decorations.

We often find a few sprigs of holly in the forest in early December and then wonder what has happened when we return to the same trees just before Christmas - somebody has got there first or else the thrushes have stripped them bare! Ivy is easier to find, even in your garden or down the lane: its long tendrils make it ideal for wreaths and garlands.

Then there is mistletoe, a parasite which attaches itself to a tree by a sucker's roots, usually too high to reach, so we buy it in the market. The mistle thrush probably gets its name from its love of mistletoe. It enjoys the sticky berries and, once it has found a berry-laden tree, will guard it from any would-be thieves. The Druids thought it a symbol of fertility, believing it increases life and procreativity.

At the high table the Boar's Head in the famous carol is "bedecked with bays and rosemary" as well as "a gay garland." "In gentlemen's houses at Christmas", a 17th C writer commented, "the first dish that was brought to table was a Boar's head, with a lemon in his mouth." The Boar's Head Dinner at Queen's College Oxford on Christmas Day is a survival of a custom once prevalent in all England. Now we eat turkeys, geese or duck instead, thankfully not swans, a favourite dish at Henry the Eighth's table.

In "The twelve days of Christmas" there are two turtle doves - you will be lucky to see one in Wiltshire now, for their numbers have declined drastically across the U.K. Various wilding projects have had some success with the species, for example in Essex and Norfolk.

Finally there's the Christmas Tree with a robin on top, looking good and smelling good, a natural centrepiece for the celebration of Christmas.

*Opposite: Mistle thrush on the mistletoe*

# Year 3 Artwork

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*Year 3 had Harvest at the forefront of their minds as they have been busy writing prayers for the Harvest Festival. They decided to incorporate this into their artwork by learning how primary colours can be mixed in equal parts to create tertiary colours. Look at their creative pieces!*

Noah Dillon

*See Front Cover*



Eleanor Bevir



Luke Gifford



# ‘Peace on Earth’      Clergy Letter by Revd Chris Smith

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Years before Jesus was born the prophet Isaiah foresaw the arrival of a Messiah like figure: “And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Is 9:6). Later, on the night Jesus was born, the shepherds were out with their flocks near Bethlehem. Angels appeared to them saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven. And peace on earth to those on whom his favour rests” (Lk 2:14). Both the prophet and the angels said that Jesus’s birth had something to do with peace. But what was the link?

If we read a paper or watch the news we seem to be quite far from ‘peace on earth’. Jesus came 2,000 years ago and if he was going to make a difference to peace surely we should see more progress. Yet, the wars in Somalia and Ukraine strikingly show a lack of peace.

So, what sort of peace was being talked about? What peace does Jesus offer? Can he bring peace to this earth? Can he bring peace to our hearts? These are the questions and themes we will be exploring further during our Christmas services. You would be very welcome to join us to find out more.

The peace that Jesus is offering is between us and our Maker and so a peace that rests in our hearts and souls. H G Wells writing of Mr Polly said: “he was not so much a human as a civil war.” So many today are anxious, afraid or hyper. Jesus said, “Come to me you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

These are beautiful promises of an inner peace that so many are seeking. And once we can find peace in our souls, then we may be able to bring peace to our families, communities and the wider world. Do come and join us at church over Christmas; all are welcome as we celebrate and try to understand more the good news of Jesus’s birth.

# What's On in December/January

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## December calendar

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

2pm Mildenhall Village Hall. Marlborough Floral Club. Candles and diffuser maker with sales table. Quiz and afternoon tea as well as the AGM. Treat yourselves to an enjoyable afternoon out on the first Thursday of each month (no meeting in January). For more information, please call Micky Graham on 01672 514301

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

7.30pm St Mary's Church. Marlborough Concert Orchestra. Wagner: Overture, Mozart: Exsultate, Jubilate (soloist: Natasha Page), Philip Singleton: The Oxen', César Franck Symphony in D minor. Tickets £12 adults, £2 students, from Sound Knowledge, Eventbrite or on the door. *See page 5*

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

7.30pm St Mary's Church. Marlborough Choral Society Christmas Concert, featuring 'The First Nowell' by Ralph Vaughan Williams, in recognition of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. Tickets (£12 including refreshments, £4 students, children free) available from Sound Knowledge, from choir members, or at the door. *See page 21*

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

4pm Marlborough Recreation Ground (car parks at St Margaret's Mead and Salisbury Road). Carols at the Rec. A short, outdoor, all-age Christmas carol service followed by festive refreshments and children's craft in the Marlborough Community and Youth Centre. Dress warmly and bring a torch! More information on [emmanuelmarlborough.org/Christmas](http://emmanuelmarlborough.org/Christmas)

7.30pm St Peter's Church. Brilliant Young International Musicians: Ensemble Renard. Founded in 2018 by musicians from the Royal Academy of Music and the Guildhall School, Ensemble Renard are an exciting young wind quintet (flute, oboe, French horn, bassoon and clarinet) pushing the boundaries of wind chamber music. Tickets (£15/ Members £10) from [www.stpetersmarlborough.org.uk](http://www.stpetersmarlborough.org.uk) or on the door on the night. *See picture opposite*

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

Marlborough College: Michaelmas Term ends (to Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023)



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

St John's: Term 2 ends (to Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023)

St Mary's: Term 2 ends (to Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023)

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

5pm Christchurch, New Road. Carols by candlelight. A traditional Christmas carol service with children's groups followed by refreshments and children's tea. More information on [emmanuelmarlborough.org/Christmas](http://emmanuelmarlborough.org/Christmas)

8pm at Marlborough College Memorial Hall. 'St Agnes Fountain', a joyous Christmas show presented by Marlborough Folk-Roots featuring acclaimed folk musicians Chris While, Julie Matthews and Chris Leslie. More details and tickets (£22.50) from [www.marlboroughfolk-roots.co.uk](http://www.marlboroughfolk-roots.co.uk) or Sound Knowledge in Hughenden Yard. *See page 19*

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

9.30am Christchurch, New Road. Christmas Day service. A short, all-age service. More information on [emmanuelmarlborough.org/Christmas](http://emmanuelmarlborough.org/Christmas)

## January calendar

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

Marlborough College: Exeat starts (to Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>)



### *Charlotte - showing from 22nd December 2022*

Charlotte, directed by Tahir Rana and Éric Warin, is an animated biopic of the short and ultimately tragic life of German-Jewish artist Charlotte Salomon (voiced by Keira Knightley in the English version and Marion Cotillard in the French language version) as she and her family attempt to survive in 1940s Germany.

Similar to 2017's *Loving Vincent*, the paintings are the film's central focus, serving as transitional devices between the different parts of the narrative. Visually, Charlotte is a masterpiece; while the animation is simple and at times lacks depth, it is ideally suited to showcasing Charlotte's art style, allowing the viewer to appreciate the talent on display.

It is clear that the team behind this film have a great deal of reverence for the source material; the film carries an emotional weight and is at times quite harrowing; it is not recommended viewing for anyone affected by depictions of prejudice, racism or related violence or suicide.

The story, while simple, does an excellent job of helping the viewer appreciate Charlotte's mental state as she hides for her life in Nazi-occupied France. The film does not focus on the atrocities or difficulties of wartime living; the real heartbreak and tragedy come through the ongoing story of Charlotte and her family in this setting.

At only 92 minutes long, Charlotte fills that sweet spot of not being long enough to feel drawn out, but also not short enough for the viewer to feel they have been deprived of important details.

**by David Williams, General Manager of the Parade Cinema**

*(Opposite)* *Charlotte*, showing from  
22nd December at the Parade Cinema

### **Erratum:**

The Marlborough History Society notice on p. 27 last month should have read: 'He organised the refurbishment of the memorial stone on Marlborough Common ...'. Our apologies to Neil Stevens and the society.



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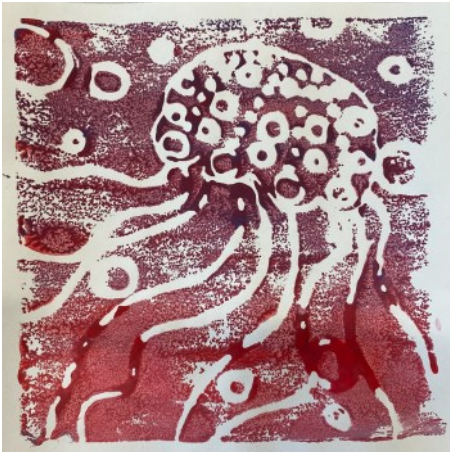


# Year 4 Artwork

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*This term Year 4 have been experimenting with the technique of block printing. They used foam tiles to carve out their designs to create a relief print inspired by their topic, Window on the World, where they focused on the ocean, whales and sea life. The result was beautiful.*

Hazel Green



Benjamin Prest



Pippa Dobie



Freddie Lee



# Marlborough Church Contacts

---

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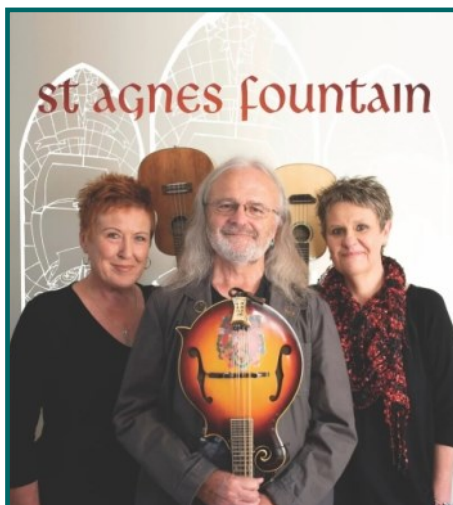
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## David Wylie

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office@christchurchmarlborough.org.uk  
Christchurch Office, New Road, SN8 1AH  
*(Fridays, 14:30 to 16:30)*



St Agnes Fountain Sunday 18th December  
at 8pm at The Memorial Hall Marlborough  
College – on sale now

A joyous Christmas show presented by Marlborough Folk-Roots featuring acclaimed folk musicians Chris While, Julie Matthews and Chris Leslie. More details and tickets (£22.50) from Sound Knowledge in Hughenden Yard or [www.marlboroughfolk-roots.co.uk](http://www.marlboroughfolk-roots.co.uk)

I don't *want* to keep banging on about men's reading and women's books, truly I don't, but recently a man came into the shop, brought a book to the counter and breezily told me he didn't expect I'd read it, it wasn't the kind of thing a woman would enjoy. Mindful of the fact that The Customer is Always Right, and not wishing to start a pointless argument, with a queue waiting, I made a non-committal noise, and raised an eyebrow as politely as I could. Perhaps he sensed a chilliness, because he hastily added "I mean, *my* wife wouldn't like it". Oh dear. There's obviously much work left for me to do.

Having said that I now do my famous literary handbrake-turn and tell you that *Did I Say That Out Loud?* by Fi Glover and Jane Garvey might not appeal to all, or even many, men. The book is an extension of their podcast *Fortunately*, and is a celebration of 'the fabulous art of female conversation'. Another example (epistolary this time) is *Between Friends* the letters between Vera Brittain and Winifred Holtby, who wrote to each other constantly, discussing their novels and articles, political campaigning, families, friends and lives. Much the same sort of thing as Fi and Jane, really, just 90 years earlier, and perhaps a bit more serious. Either of these books would make excellent Christmas presents. (There, I've said it.)

I've complained before that no-one gives me books, for obvious reasons, but I'd be very happy to receive any of the following. In the spirit of the season *Diplomatic Gifts* by Paul Brummel is a look at the valuable, meaningful and bizarre offerings that have oiled the wheels of international relations - or sometimes thrown a spanner in the works - for centuries.

The whole of Britain is positively littered with stone circles, hill forts and tumuli. *The Aerial Atlas of Ancient Britain* is a collection of beautiful photographs of these mysterious sites. *Country Church Monuments* is another lovely gift book, full of images and information about monuments, stained glass, sculptures and assorted treasures to be found in parish churches around England and Wales.

But if you really love someone, you'll want to give them *THE WORLD* (see what I did there?), subtitled *A Family History* by Simon Sebag-Montefiore. It's a hurtling narrative from pre-history to the present day, using dynastic marriages, inheritances and feuds as the theme that links people and events. Epic in scope, immensely readable, and you'll feel cleverer just having this (enormous) book in the house.

## **An Increase in the Subscription Charge**

It is with great regret that the Tower and Town committee has decided to raise the yearly subscription charge. It has been very difficult to make this decision during the cost-of-living crisis and considering that the charge has been set at £5 a year for as long as most of us can remember. Unfortunately, owing to much increased printing costs, the magazine has made a small loss this year. Looking to the future, while printing costs have stabilised there are no guarantees that they will stay that way.

So we have reluctantly decided to raise the subscription charge to **£7 a year for 11 editions from February 2023**. This remains good value since individual magazines cost £1 each. We hope you will feel able to continue subscribing to the magazine.

Sarah Bumphrey, Chairman



## **MARLBOROUGH CHORAL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS CONCERT 10 DECEMBER – 7:30 – ST. MARY’S CHURCH**

We look forward to welcoming you to our annual Christmas concert – this year featuring ‘The First Nowell’ by Ralph Vaughan Williams (in recognition of the 150th anniversary of his birth). The work is based on a medieval nativity play.

Tickets (£12 including refreshments, £4 students, and children free) are available from Sound Knowledge, from choir members or at the door. The retiring collection will be in aid of Trussell Trust. For further information Sara Holden, saraholden22@gmail.com

Registered charity number: 293610

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2022

All the churches of Marlborough wish you every blessing for a peaceful and happy Christmas.

### Sunday 11th December

- 10.30am All Age Christingle (St Mary's, Marlborough)
- 4.00pm Carols by Candlelight ( St John the Baptist, Minal)
- " Carols at the Rec (Emmanuel)

### Sunday 18th December

- 10.30am Carol Service (Christchurch)
- " Nine lessons and Carols, (St Mary's, Marlborough)
- 5.00pm Carols by Candlelight (Emmanuel at Christchurch)
- 7.00pm Carols by Candlelight (St George's, Preshute)

### Wednesday 21st December

- 6.00 pm Beer and Carols (St Mary's, Marlborough)

### Thursday 22nd December

- 3.00pm Singalong Nativity (St George's, Preshute)

### Christmas Eve – Saturday 24th December

- 3.00pm Crib Service (St George's, Preshute)
- " Family Carols (St Mary's, Marlborough)
- 4.00pm Christmas Family Mass (St Thomas More)
- 5.00pm Minal Village Nativity (start at The Horseshoe pub)
- 9.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass - Carol singing from 8.30pm (St Thomas More)
- " Midnight at Bethlehem (Pewsey Methodist Church)
- 10.00pm First Communion of Christmas (St George's, Preshute)
- 11:15pm Midnight Communion (St Mary's, Marlborough)

### Christmas Day

- 8.00am Holy Communion (St Mary's, Marlborough)
- 9.00am Mass (Holy Family, Pewsey)
- " Family Communion, (St John the Baptist Minal)
- 9.30am Family Service (Emmanuel at Christchurch)
- 10.30am Family Communion (St George's, Preshute)
- " Family Communion (St Mary's, Marlborough)
- " All Age Worship, (Christchurch)
- " Quaker Meeting for worship
- 11.00am Mass (St Thomas More)



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# News from the Churches

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The dates and times for Christmas services can be found on page 22. Please contact the clergy page 19 if you are in need of prayer support.

## Friendship Café

Saturday 3rd December in St Mary's Church Hall , 10am to 12 noon.  
More information from Louise Seddon (07917 248339) or Mark Whitehead (07814 895127)



## Women's Fellowship

meet on Tuesday 6th December at 2.45 in the Crush Hall, Christchurch.

## MAPAG

The next MAPAG open meeting is Tuesday December 6th on zoom. Contact Rachel Rosedale for link (rachelrosed1@gmail.com).



## Christingle-Making Party

Saturday 10th December, 9.30am, St Mary's Church Hall. Make a Christingle to celebrate at the Sunday service the next day.

## Mencap Carol Service

Tuesday 13th December, 6pm in St Mary's Church. All welcome to attend this friendly service.

## Bring and Share Lunch

Sunday 18th December at Christchurch following on from the Carol Service.



## Christmas Links 2022

This December St Mary's Christmas outreach project is: Christmas Links.



Paper chain building has already begun!

The 'links' title is a neat way of summing up what we hope to do: we're linking the church with the wider community; we're linking all of us to the wonder of baby Jesus and we're building the links within the church community itself. The physical links are paper chains! Having had nearly 2000 hanging angels in 2020 and more than 2000 golden stars in 2021, we're aiming for at least 3000 individual loops in our paper chains this year! Every member of our community and beyond is invited to join in by decorating or

writing on a strip/s of paper which we will build together and hang in St Mary's during December. You will be invited on a journey that takes us from a normal home setting to the stable where Jesus was born, explaining along the way how we can all, even today, relate to those characters in the Christmas story.

The church will be open to share Christmas Links from December 11th to 24th (see St Mary's website for times). If you would like to be involved please email Helen Stokes: [hcstokes@gmail.com](mailto:hcstokes@gmail.com). We're looking forward to linking up with you!

## **Emmanuel**

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We are grateful to meet for a weekly 4pm Sunday service at Christchurch, New Road, with crèche and Sunday School groups. We have home groups and community groups - for more details and the latest updates, please check our website at [www.emmanuelmarlborough.org](http://www.emmanuelmarlborough.org):



**Little Friends Toddler Group** Thursdays, 10-1130am at the Marlborough Community and Youth Centre.

**Explorers** Fridays, 6-715pm at the Wesley Hall, Oxford Street, Marlborough.

**Friday Nights** Fridays, 7:30-9pm. Our youth club for school years 7-11 at the Wesley Hall, Oxford Street, Marlborough.

**Hope Explored** A 3 session short introduction to Christianity, from Luke's Gospel. For more details, email [office@emmanuelmarlborough.org](mailto:office@emmanuelmarlborough.org)

## **MAPAG—Christmas Hampers**

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Many of us will have started our Christmas shopping, but not everyone is in a position to do so. MAPAG (Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group) will be co-ordinating Christmas vouchers or hampers for local families in need for support this Christmas. Please email [rachelrosed1@gmail.com](mailto:rachelrosed1@gmail.com) for further details.

## **January 2023**

### **Marlborough Churches Together**

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Fraternal will take place on Wednesday January 4th at 12.30pm at 18 Priorsfield.



### **Methodist Covenant Service**

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Sunday January 8th 10:30 am in Christchurch. This will be followed by a Circuit Service at 2.30pm to commemorate the witness of CC within the building over 200 years. The circuit service will be followed by tea and cake.

### **Sparklers**

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Monday January 16th 3:45-4:45pm (Doors open at 3:30pm) at the Wesley Hall, Oxford Street, Marlborough. A monthly kids club for school years Reception to Year 2. Games, Snacks and Bible Stories!

## Be-Longing: Praying for Unity amidst Injustice

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18 – 25 January 2023. Guided by the churches of Minneapolis we seek to explore how the work of Christian unity can contribute to the promotion of racial justice across all levels of society. Our attention is on the 30th anniversary of the murder of Stephen Lawrence, which we mark in 2023. The work of restoring hope through justice undertaken in Stephen's memory continues to inspire and change lives for the better. As we join with other Christians around the world for the Week of Prayer we pray that our hearts will be open to see and hear the many ways in which racism continues to destroy lives, and to discern the steps we can take as individuals and communities to heal the hurts and build a better future. <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2023/>

### **Matthew Devlin**

Matthew Devlin died peacefully at home on 24th October following a long illness fighting cancer.

He will be remembered by many as the chair of Marlborough Churches Together from around the 2000's until 2007. He was a dedicated and inspirational chair encouraging us to work and worship as Christians together. After his resignation he continued his ecumenical work as chair of Wiltshire Churches Together and as the Assistant Ecumenical Officer of the Catholic Diocese.

Having met and worked with those in prison by volunteering as an assistant chaplain in HMP Erlestoke he found he wanted to attend the next stage in a person's journey following release. This led to him becoming one of the founder members of the Community Chaplaincy Association, Change for Good ([www.changeforgood.info](http://www.changeforgood.info)), and later became its chair. Matthew also supported CAFOD and was the Treasurer and a trustee of St Michael's School in Busembatia, Uganda.

His faith and his commitment to those less fortunate than himself were an example to follow. He will be missed. Our thoughts are with his wife, Rosemary and his children and grandchildren.

### **FROM THE REGISTERS**

**Departed** - we pray for the families of:

14 October	Alexandra Cresswell (65)	Castle Street, Calne
20 October	David Hutchins (82)	Newby Acre, Marlborough
26 June	Mary 'Bobsie' Wigmore (95)	College Fields, Marlborough
20 October	Agnes Fleming (97)	Hyde Lane, Marlborough
3 November	Marion Fishlock (83)	The Street, Broughton Gifford

# Tower and Town staff

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**Contributions and comments** from readers are welcome.

Please send articles and letters to the Monthly Editor or the Chairman, other notices or announcements to the compiler. All items for the February issue by Tuesday 10th January 2023 please.

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