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# TOWER AND TOWN

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**Reflections**



**the amazing  
summer of 2016**

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OCTOBER 2016 50P

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# TOWER AND TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

NUMBER 664 OCTOBER 2016



## **Reflections - on the amazing summer of 2016**

This October edition of *Tower and Town* seems to have taken on a life of its own. I had originally planned for it to have a central theme of “Loneliness”, both because it reflected my own mood at the time, but also because it seemed to me that, in an increasingly polarised world, many of you, our readers, could identify with this. **Debbi Burch has contributed a very fine and thought-provoking article on this theme.**

However, as this extraordinary year of 2016 went by, so many events took on an extra momentum and importance; this coincided also with my attaining the (once) venerable age of 70 – this certainly gave me extra impetus to consider my relationship with myself and the world around me.

So whilst not abandoning the original theme, it has turned into an edition of (rather personal) reflections on the year as it has unfolded, with particular reference to the Brexit issue, itself an example of the voluntary isolation sought by the majority of voters. The amazing political and social developments all over the world and the increasing uncertainty surrounding all our futures only add to our unease.

On a positive note, much of the content has been provided by my new-found Facebook friends; these include several excellent writers and commentators, who have undoubtedly broadened and enriched my view of the world, as well as making me laugh.

It is also the eve of the Marlborough Literary Festival, and this literary connection seems very appropriate.

You may agree or disagree strongly with some of my views. Please let me know, and we will happily accommodate your arguments, both for and against.

***Andrew Unwin - Editor***

I joined *Tower and Town* some 6 years ago when I was a “new boy” in Marlborough, and I have much enjoyed my association with this Magazine. I have played some part in its development, especially on its operational side, and have edited 4 or 5 issues over the years.

This issue is completely different from the others. The remaining pages cover the events and developments of 2016 as viewed by myself and by various friends and acquaintances. The main “chapters” are:

The Referendum. An unashamedly partisan view in favour of Remain is given. This was also the cornerstone of my acquiring a group of Facebook friends of similar persuasion (at least on this issue). In turn this new exposure to Social Media has in fact enriched my life and opened my eyes and mind to new vistas.

Facebook. Many of my friends and contemporaries, whilst being fairly proficient with Email, Word, Excel etc. are reluctant to venture onto Facebook or other rather open Social Media sites. They are concerned (understandably) about their privacy and the increased risk of hacking that this might engender. I think it is perhaps due to the fact that I am (not entirely of my own volition!) single at present, that I have embraced FB and have acquired a number of excellent new friends, of different ages and political perspectives. For older people it is not always easy to expand one’s group of friends, but I find it absolutely delightful; furthermore it has convinced me that I often have more in common with a younger generation than with my own! So, during the course of these pages, I will be introducing you to people like Anthony McGowan, Boris Starling, Veronique Martin, my brilliant niece Sophie Unwin and the irrepressible Danuta Kean.

Writers, writing and the Olympics. I personally much enjoyed watching the Olympic Games from Rio; reaction from many overseas friends convinces me that the oft-maligned BBC, without ads, is still the Gold Standard of Broadcasters. The contributions on Facebook from Boris Starling on some famous (or less famous) Olympic moments of the past have been quite outstanding, and he has been kind to allow part to be included here.

## **Loneliness by Debbi Burch.**

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**Yesterday my husband went away for a week. When I got into bed last night I was struck by the space beside me where he usually sleeps.**

I might have said I was lonely, but if I had simply decided I was lonely and listened to the stories in my head about who and how much I was missing, I would certainly have felt more lonely.

Instead I explored further, opening deliberately to my experience of his absence – not what I thought or felt about it, but the actual space. As I did I felt a delicious and surprising sense of space and expansion in myself. I felt content.

I remembered a conversation I had with an architect at a wedding last year. He said: “the structure of a building is not what makes it beautiful, but how the structure relates to space.” Likewise, the moment I resisted the impulse to decide my husband’s absence was a bad thing for poor lonely me, but instead brought my experience to the actual space, any sense of separation between my presence and his absence melted into one simple experience of, well, beauty. How could I be lonely then?

People tend to experience loneliness as a consequence of two types of behaviour. Both tendencies reflect the struggle to balance structure and space within themselves and their lives.

The first tendency is to isolate oneself through fear of overwhelm and loss of space and autonomy. We avoid meaningful connection with others so we end up with too much freedom and not enough of the commitments & responsibilities that give us routine and a sense of belonging. We have personal space but at the cost of structure or form.

The other tendency is to give too much - bolting down one’s time in an endless cycle of ‘doings’ which leads to too much structure and not enough freedom or space.

Space becomes the enemy that mustn’t be succumbed to so we offer ourselves further despite our exhaustion and resentment. We end up feeling we have no room to breathe.

Both of these patterns – isolation and overwhelm - are rooted in fear of rejection and, ultimately, loneliness. Our task is to deeply examine these fears and to open instead into an inner and outer spaciousness that includes structure, connection and freedom.

continued overleaf

When we say a vista is beautiful, we again mean structure in relation to space - a mountain piercing a cloudless sky, the crest of a wave spiking into shards against a bright sunrise. Music, too, is only beautiful because of how it plays with silence.

I have come to know this dance of structure and space only too well. Last December I lost a chunk of intestine to cancer (thankfully now fully resolved). Four weeks later my beloved dog Martha died. Then at the end of June my mother passed away.

In my acceptance of the absence of a piece of my body and adored pieces of my family, what remains present becomes all the more precious, astonishingly so.

By bringing my presence to the space left by these losses, I become the vast, empty sky and I become the mountain surrounded by the spacious acceptance it needs to simply be itself. I am overjoyed to discover that in this space there is more room in me for love – to love and be loved. I feel more deeply connected with others and with life itself than ever before.

Little by little I intuit the right balance of structure and space in my own life and with that comes a beautiful freedom.

If we are afraid to experience absence, calling it loneliness, how can we be wise?



*Debbi Burch is a humanistic psychotherapist working with individuals, couples and groups in Aldbourne SN8 and in London N4. She can be contacted on 07957111693 or via [debbiburch.com](http://debbiburch.com).*

**"There is one thing I can say for certain: the older a person gets, the lonelier s/he becomes. It's true for everyone. But maybe that isn't wrong. What I mean is, in a sense our lives are nothing more than a series of stages to help us get used to loneliness. That being the case, there's no reason to complain. And besides, who would we complain to, anyway?"**

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## The Referendum – Brexit Three Months Later.

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The writer and Restaurant critic A.A. Gill reflected my view as well as anyone:

*“The first ‘X’ I ever put on a voting slip was to say yes to the EU. The first referendum was when I was 20 years old. This one will be in the week of my 62nd birthday. For nearly all my adult life, there hasn’t been a day when I haven’t been pleased and proud to be part of this great collective. If you ask me for my nationality, the truth is I feel more European than anything else. I am part of this culture, this European civilisation. I can walk into any gallery on our continent and completely understand the images and the stories on the walls. These people are my people and they have been for thousands of years. I can read books on subjects from Ancient Greece to Dark Ages Scandinavia, from Renaissance Italy to 19th-century France, and I don’t need the context or the landscape explained to me. The music of Europe, from its scales and its instruments to its rhythms and religion, is my music. The Renaissance, the rococo, the Romantics, the Impressionists, gothic, baroque, neoclassicism, realism, expressionism, futurism, fauvism, cubism, dada, surrealism, postmodernism and kitsch were all European movements and none of them belongs to a single nation. There is a reason why the Chinese are making fake Italian handbags and the Italians aren’t making fake Chinese ones. This European culture, without question or argument, is the greatest, most inventive, subtle, profound, beautiful and powerful genius that was ever contrived anywhere by anyone and it belongs to us.”*

I fully identify with this, so for me there was no doubt whatsoever which way my vote would go. I would love to see my country fully involved in the committed struggle to improve the workings of the European Union. I hated the lies put about by the Brexiteers of Farage and the Tory hard right, but I also deplored the mercenary and selfish counter messages of fear posted by the Remainers. No one has ever been inspired by a negative campaign and it was clear to me as I canvassed on the streets of Marlborough and Devizes, trying to further the Remain cause, that we were fighting a losing battle.

And then on June 24<sup>th</sup>, at about 3 in the morning as I saw the results coming in from Newcastle and Sunderland, I could see the awful writing on the wall. In the most important vote of my 70 year old lifetime, we had chosen Isolationism, and turned our back on international cooperation – what a disappointment!

Three months later, not much has changed. Mrs May has repeated ad nauseam that “Brexit is Brexit” but that is about as relevant as “Breakfast is Breakfast”. People are reaching conclusions about the success or failure of the vote, when the only real conclusions will be seen several years down the line.

Some of my main conclusions were expressed brilliantly by Jeremy Kinsman, former Canadian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom. He pointed out that:

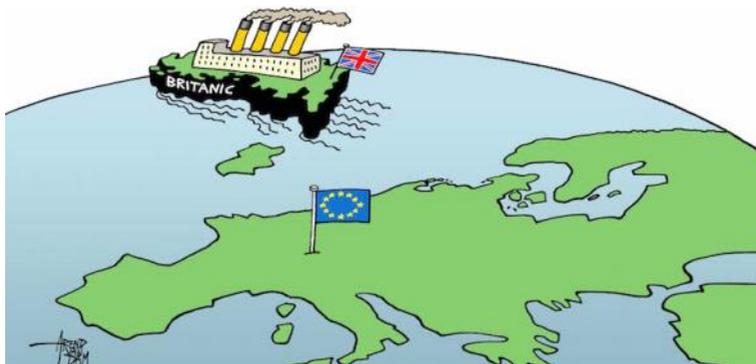
1. *Referenda are the nuclear weapons of democracy. In parliamentary systems they are redundant. Seeking a simplistic binary yes/no answer to complex questions, they succumb to emotion and run amok. Their destructive aftermath lasts for generations.*
2. *In any referendum over separation, the “independence” side appeals to the patriotic heart. The thinking of the Leave side is magical. It plucks at a dimly remembered but glorified past (that was never as good as nostalgia makes it), and offers a future that is imaginary.*
3. *The referendum shouldn’t have been a response to party politics. Its significance is existential. It can’t be undone. But people can’t be expected just to absorb the pain and stay calm and carry on. There is real disbelief that those about to take charge know what they are doing. Public antipathy and division will increase. The elected Parliament is against Brexit. Your friends abroad are aghast.*



The worst part of the Brexit Issue is, for me, the personal disruption and anxiety that the decision has provoked for several of my family and friends. My niece, Sophie, who lives in Edinburgh, is a fierce and fervent Remainer, like her Uncle. She has started to investigate the possibility of using her Irish maternal roots to reacquire (if needed) her European citizenship.

She posted the following, as befits a member of the younger generation, just after the Referendum:

*"I sometimes fear that people might think that fascism arrives in fancy dress worn by grotesques and monsters as played out in endless re-runs of the Nazis. Fascism arrives as your friend. It will restore your honour, make you feel proud, protect your house, give you a job, clean up the neighbourhood, remind you of how great you once were, clear out the venal and the corrupt, remove anything you feel is unlike you!"*



Veronique Martin, a French writer living in Bath writes as follows:

*".....I have momentarily disconnected from Facebook to have a vital break after all the Brexit turmoil (losing friends, my rose-tinted vision of Britain and my projects for the future in France)".* And John G-S, who moved to France very recently, is facing the same uncertainties. So my main anguish is concentrated on our younger generation whose natural acceptance of the boundary-less status quo has now been dashed by the seemingly materialistic and, to my mind, somewhat egoistic view of many of their forefathers (and mothers).

## Readers' Responses

Tower and Town welcomes readers' responses to any items in the magazine and undertakes to give serious consideration to publishing them subject to suitability and space. Please correspond with [chairman@towerandtown.org.uk](mailto:chairman@towerandtown.org.uk) (18 Kelham Gardens, SN8 1PW).

## Writers, writing and the Olympics

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As mentioned, one of the pleasures of my 71<sup>st</sup> summer has been to make friends on Facebook with some very interesting and enlightened people. But please note, dear Reader, that Facebook friends are not “virtual reality” friends – they are real people, with all the trials and tribulations, joys and passions that we all have and share. Take this piece from the author Anthony McGowan, who took part in an Edinburgh Literary Festival:

*“A terrible, sleepless night in Edinburgh, racked by anxiety and heartburn. Managed to drift off at about 4.30, only to be wrenched out of a nightmare about being eaten alive by the raucous clamour of a lesser black-backed gull outside my window. Ate a carbonised breakfast at a table in the middle of the room, feeling exposed and raw, surrounded by elderly Americans complaining about the coffee. Have an event this morning with Patrice and Daniel, which should be OK, but then have to compose a mini, career-ending lecture to deliver tonight. I'm too tired and anxious to make it funny, so it'll just be the bitter, resentful ramblings of a disappointed man, punctuated by guttural expletives and inchoate belches of rage. Oh, not quite sure what the point of all that was, but now I feel a little better. Contemplating a second breakfast ...”*

Life on the road for a writer is very similar to business trips we have all made.

And Danuta Kean, a creative writing tutor and Books Editor at Mslexia, continuously regales us with her life experiences. Apart from advising us how to write a Best-Seller, and on everything to do with getting a book published, she will keep her FB friends in the picture about her recent toothache, her lovely daughter, and about the Trolls lurking in the dark spaces of Social Media. Danuta has strong and decisive views on almost any topic, and has introduced me (hitherto mainly a Times reader) to many fabulous journalists writing for the Guardian (Nick Cohen etc. ) Her latest view on Brexit: “ Sadly I think we will be out and none of these people (Campaigning Brexiteers) will bear the consequences. The rest of us will though.” I love my daily exposure to Danuta’s world, and find it intellectually very salutary.

And finally to Boris! No, not that one. This Boris is a much better version. Boris Starling is a British novelist, screenwriter and newspaper journalist, who lightened up the Olympics of all his FB friends with some wonderful epic rewrites of famous and heroic Olympic stories. Lack of space allows me only one excerpt from these five sagas. This is the tale of Derek Redmond in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, after he had pulled a hamstring in the 400 metres final, and his father had forced his way onto the track to assist him. Boris’ words as he retold this amazing story were spine-tingling:

*“And that was when Derek finally crumpled: his face twisted in pain and tears, his head buried on his father’s shoulder. An official came near, trying to get them both off the track. Jim kept one protective arm round Derek and waved the man off with the other.*

*They began to walk slowly down the home straight, father and son together. The crowd cheered louder, palliative to the pain which every step was causing Derek. Another official tried to pull Jim away. Jim knew these guys were just trying to do their job, but his son was hurting and his son wanted to reach the finish line and that was all there was to it.*



*He span round and told the blazer to f... off. Derek had never heard his dad swear before, not once. Jim was making up for that now. He wasn’t taking any s..t and he wasn’t giving a s..t.*

*Today, he wasn’t in the s..t business. Today, he was something great, something special, something universal. He was every parent who’d taken their child into bed after a nightmare and cuddled them back to sleep. He was every father who’d hauled himself out of bed at stupid o’clock on a winter’s morning to drive his son to training. He was every mother who’d cheered and fretted on a touchline. He was every teacher who’d seen a spark in a child and fanned it till it caught fire and spread and blossomed and consumed their lives. He was every adult who’d tried to balance in someone they loved the desire to win with the acceptance of loss, who’d talked of Kipling and his twin impostors, who’d listened to the man in the film who said that if you weren’t enough without the medal then you’d never be enough with it. He was anyone who’d seen another human being in pain and gone to their aid rather than walk on by. Most of all, he was proof of perhaps humanity’s most basic truth: that the minimum unit for love and survival is not one but two.”*

As Habie Schwarz commented, with reference to Boris:

*“I love the beautiful writing of those who are generous with their skills on Facebook; posts that increase your understanding and/or are so enjoyable to savour you read them aloud to friends. Prose poetry.”*

*Boris Starling is an award-winning author, screenwriter and journalist. His books have appeared on the Sunday Times and New York Times bestseller lists, he created the MESSIAH series which ran for five seasons on BBC1, and he regularly writes for several national newspapers.*

**Every seven years the Methodist Church gives its ministers a three month sabbatical. This gift of time is meant to be for study, reflection and refreshment.**

This year I was due a sabbatical and so decided to spend time looking at how the Celtic practice of Christianity could be both a challenge and an encouragement to us today.

I focussed on the 6th - 8th centuries in Northumbria as this was the heyday of the Celtic Church in Britain and included a watershed event in the life of the Christian Church in this country - the Synod of Whitby in 649AD.

These are a few reflections on the sabbatical studies.

After some general reading the studies proper began with a trip up to Lindisfarne to attend a retreat with teaching on the northern saints, particularly Aidan, Cuthbert and Bede. A later trip to Whitby included a look at Hilda and the all important synod.

The Celtic monks were great travellers with a passion for mission and sharing the Gospel. However they also matched their teaching with action and demonstrated the love of God in the practical care of people. There was no discrimination as all who needed received care, whether or not they accepted this new faith that was being taught.

There was no separation of Church and politics as many of the Celtic leaders acted as friend and advisors to kings.

Education was important and the monasteries would always include a school. Education for girls as well as boys was offered. The basic skills of literacy and numeracy as well as practical skills would enable the children to be well equipped for adult life. The children, boys especially, would learn Latin, the language of books and the Bible. As part of education and mission the translation of parts of scripture into English was begun so that ordinary people could hear and understand God's word. Here is the first English version of the Lord's Prayer translated by Bede, a scholar and historian.

Fæder ure þu þe eart on heofonum; Si þin nama gehalgod to becume þin rice gewurpe ðin willa on eorðan swa swa on heofonum. urne gedæghwamlican hlaf syle us todæg and forgyf us ure gyltas swa swa we forgyfað urum gyltendum and ne gelæd þu us on costnunge ac alys us of yfele soþlice.

Another aspect of the Celtic way which is very relevant for our age is a respect for all creation. All life, be it plant, animal or human, was part of God's creation and to be treated with care and respect. Perhaps we need to relearn that lesson as our abuse of the natural world leads us to global warming and to a growing divide between rich and poor across the world.

In 649 the Synod of Whitby made the decision that the Church throughout Britain should follow the Roman way and so part of our Christian heritage faded into the background. As this strand of our heritage is rediscovered we do risk romanticising the Celtic Church, but if we can avoid doing so we can embrace that part of our past - because who we are today is rooted in all our past.

The sabbatical was interesting and I appreciated the time for study and reflection.

If any group, Church or not, would like to hear more I am happy to come and talk about my sabbatical studies.



The Pilgrim's Causeway, Lindisfarne.

The path that joins the island to the mainland is cut off by the tide twice a day.

# What's on in October

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## 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, 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.

2nd & 4th Wed 2-3pm: St George's, Preshute. Teddy Prayers & Picnic....

A service for tea & cakes for U5's & their carers.

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

### Every Thursday (or some Thursdays)

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

10.30-12.00 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

10.00-12.00 noon: Christchurch Crush Hall. Food bank and coffee morning.

### Every 2nd Saturday

10.00-12.00 noon: Library. Marlborough & District Dyslexia Association. Drop-in advice. Help line: 07729 452143.

## October Calendar

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### 30<sup>th</sup> (Friday) September – 2<sup>nd</sup> (Sunday) October

Marlborough Literary Festival. Multi events. [www.marlboroughlitfest.org](http://www.marlboroughlitfest.org)

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

2pm KV Hall, Lockeridge. Embroiderers' Guild. Talk by Caroline Kirton: 'Telling Tales'. 861410.

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

7.30pm Wesley Hall, Oxford Street. WI. Antiques Road Show with Gordon Brockman. Bring item for valuation. New members and guests welcome.

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

7pm Town Hall. Encore production from NT: 'The Deep Blue Sea' by Terence Rattigan. £15 in adv, £17.50 on door.

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

10pm The Bear Inn. Gig: James Duggan – Cool Cat Collective.

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

12 noon High Street. Mop Fair (Little Mop).

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

7.30pm Memorial Hall, Marlborough College. MC Concert Series. Piano Recital: Paul Turner.

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

7.30pm Bouverie Hall, Pewsey. Pewsey Vale DFAS lecture by Chloe Sayer: 'Gold of the Gods: The treasures of South America and the search for El Dorado. 01672 700073.

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

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

7pm Town Hall, Debate: 'Prison: Why go there?' (see page 19)

7.45pm Wesley Hall, Oxford Street. Gardening Association. Talk by Keith Ferguson: 'North American Plants in British Gardens'.

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

7pm St Peter's Church. The Merchant's House Autumn Lecture. George Hosier: 'Improving the Soil. Farming Innovation – Past and Present'. £10 (£7 Friend of MH).

7.30pm Town Hall. Film: 'Love & Friendship'. £5 in adv, £6 on door.

7.30pm Coronation Hall, Alton Barnes. Talk by Jim Leary: 'The Vale of Pewsey Project: The 2016 season of archaeological investigation'.

**14<sup>th</sup> (Friday)**

10pm The Bear Inn. Gig: 'The Cover Up'.

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

12 noon - late High Street. Mop Fair. 16<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)

**15<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) and 16<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)**

Leisure Centre Open Weekend. Multi events.

**17<sup>th</sup> (Monday)**

11am Ellendune Hall, Wroughton. Kennet DFAS. Lecture by Felicity Herring: 'Lady Butler – Battle Artist'. 01793 840790.

6.30pm Town Hall. Live from ROH: Mozart's 'Cosi fan tutte'. £15 in adv, £17.50 on door.

7.30pm Slade House, St James' Gardens, Devizes SN10 1EL. KV National Trust Association. Lecture by Carol Shirley: 'The Croft, Devizes – the past'.

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

Gardening Association Visit to Stourhead.

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

7.30pm St Peter's Church. History Society. Lecture by Peter Leigh: 'Mesopotamia and the dawn of civilisation'. Guests £4 (students £2).

**21<sup>st</sup> (Friday)**

St John's Academy. End of Term 1.

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

Marlborough College. Start of Half Term.

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

10am-4pm Marlborough College. Feast of Food. £5 (children free). In aid of Cancer Research.

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

7.30pm St Peter's Church. Concert: An-Ting Chang (piano). £10 (£8 members of MBG and St Peter's Trust).

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

7.15pm Town Hall. Live from The Garrick: 'The Entertainer' by John Osborne. £12 in adv, £14 on door.

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

Marlborough College. End of Half Term.

**31<sup>st</sup> (Monday)**

St John's Academy. Start of Term 2.

**MARLBOROUGH LITFEST****30th September – 2nd October 2016**

For more information visit [www.marlboroughlitfest.org](http://www.marlboroughlitfest.org). Full programme and tickets are available from The White Horse Bookshop, Marlborough High Street, or Pound Arts Tel: 01249 701628 / 01249 712618

## Clergy Letter - Loneliness

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Dear Friends,

Loneliness is often taken to be a pejorative word, full of negative connotations and with little to commend it or appreciate about it. When it is combined in a phrase such as, 'loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted' there is no simple way to perceive anything positive about it. As Mother Teresa wrote, it is indeed, 'the most terrible poverty'.

It has been suggested by many people that some of the loneliest times are when we are surrounded by others but without any social contact with them. It's an observation often made about cities, where people can be in crowded places but strangers can find it difficult to even make eye contact with others.

However, some of us have sought refuge from the busyness of work-life and constant social interaction by choosing to go on a silent retreat to a remote place, with the chance to be alone with one's own thoughts and time to reflect on life. My own experience of such retreats is in a Christian setting. To me they are my attempt to follow the example set by Jesus Christ, who, it is reported by Luke, 'would withdraw to deserted places and pray' as a way of removing himself from the pressure of the crowds and the demands of his followers in order to spend time with his Father.

In such a situation it is very possible to be both alone yet not lonely. It may be that a retreat does not strictly constitute loneliness because total isolation is not experienced. The absence of physical contact is undoubtedly a feature but the presence of spiritual and emotional contact with God can be very real and meaningful. Perhaps such 'lone-ness' should be regarded as solitude, a positive and constructive experience of companionship with God. This can lead us into spiritual growth and positive activity.

I think we all need to take the chance to remove ourselves from the pressures of life and be alone, even if it is for a relatively short time. At its simplest, it's an opportunity to recharge the batteries but it's also a way of being alone with one's own thoughts; to be with God in silence, waiting on him and listening. For this purpose I've known busy Mums who use a soak in the bath and busy men who use a workout at the gym – or indeed vice versa!

Whatever method we use, I trust we might find with the theologian, Thomas Merton, that, 'in this loneliness the deepest activities' might be initiated.

God bless,

Bob Toogood

## News from the Churches

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### Harvest Festivals on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

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10.00am All Age Worship at St Mary's

10.00am All Age Worship with the Junior Georgians at St George's

11.00am Family Service for Harvest followed by a BBQ picnic in the grounds at St John the Baptist

### Marlborough Deanery Bite-Size Learning (free and open to all)

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Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 3.00pm-4.15pm 'Intercessions Training' at St Michael's Church, Aldbourne Come and explore different ways to lead people in prayer.

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm-9.00pm 'Enjoying our differences and valuing our diversity' session 1 at Ramsbury Church-rooms and Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm-9.00pm Session 2 of 'Enjoying our differences and valuing our diversity' at Ramsbury Church-rooms. These two sessions with Lesley Whelan use 'Myers Briggs' as a framework for understanding yourself and appreciating the differences in others.

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm - 9.00pm

'Faith and Poetry - a matter of recognition' with Canon Andrew Studdert-Kennedy in St Mary's Church, Marlborough. The second part of the evening will provide an opportunity for people to share a favourite poem, do bring yours along.



### MAPAG (Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group)

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Next meets on **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 7.30pm** in Friends' Meeting House, all welcome. MAPAG is opening its own bank account and adopting charitable status. Supporting the summer Activate8 programme has been most successful.

### Women's Fellowship meets at 2.45pm in Christchurch

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October 4<sup>th</sup> Revd Heather Cooper (Harvest Festival)

October 11<sup>th</sup> Chrissy Whittington

October 18<sup>th</sup> Sarah Holden, Home Start (Bring and Buy)

October 25<sup>th</sup> Ruth Richards



### The All Souls' Service

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This is an Ecumenical Service of thanksgiving and remembrance for those who have died during the past year. This year the service takes place at St Mary's Church on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October at 4.00pm.

## Marlborough Churches Together: Open Council Meeting



**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October** at 7.30pm in Christchurch. This is an open meeting and you are all very welcome to come along and support us. For further information please contact this year's Chairman, Father John Blacker or the clergy in your church.

## Sunday Lunch Club

Meets on **9<sup>th</sup> October** starting at noon at Christchurch. All welcome. Please reserve a place through the Christchurch office (513701) by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October.



## Prison: Why Go There?

If prison doesn't work, why do we send so many people there? A debate for Prisons Week at Marlborough Town Hall on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016 starting at 7.00pm**. Admission free, refreshments provided.

The debate will include Andrew Neilson, Howard League for Penal Reform, and Judge Simon Hammond, Leicester Crown Court.

It will be chaired by Rt Revd Dr Edward Condry, Bishop of Ramsbury.

## The Filling Station Marlborough

Takes place on **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm** at St Peter's Junior School, Marlborough with Gordon Hickson. Gordon heads up 'Mahabba' a network set up in Oxford in 2005, to help everyday Christians engage positively with Muslims. It facilitates opportunities to pray, increase understanding of Muslims and Islam and getting equipped to share Jesus with Muslims locally. [www.mahabbanetwork.com](http://www.mahabbanetwork.com)



## Marlborough Street Angels at the MOP Fairs in October

If you are interested in coordinating or volunteering for the Marlborough Street Angels at Marlborough MOP fairs (8 and 15 October) please speak to your church minister as soon as possible. Street Angels is a great outreach opportunity for church volunteers to support the local youth and community in Marlborough and it is fun to do!



## Christchurch 200th Celebration Report

On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August, a wonderful Celebration Party took place at Christchurch to celebrate 200 years of Methodist Worship on the present site in New Road. About 75 people attended from around our Circuit, Swindon, Pewsey ; members of MCT including Rev & Mrs Bob Toogood, Janneke Blokland, our Mayor and members of the Town Council and many other friends. The cake was cut by our oldest member, Mrs. Peg Siddall, who is almost 100. A joyful service took place including a 'Timeline' by Sandra Wylie, one of our local preachers, which detailed the names of all the clergy from day one interspersed with key events of the past 200 years – Queen Victoria, World Wars, Space Travel, 9/11, right up to the present day 'Brexit'! The church was suitably decorated with balloons and flowers, and a cream tea was enjoyed by all.



## Hangout@Devotion

Hangout@Devotion: are you 11-14? Are you free Thursday evenings? Come and join us; 7pm-8.30pm in the Wesley Hall, Christchurch.

## Hangout@The Mead

Hangout@TheMead on Tuesday evenings, 6.30 – 8pm for years 6–8 and 8pm-9.30pm for years 9-13 at the old Youth Development Centre in St Margaret's Mead.

**Any Time** for young people aged 10 - 14. Meets weekly (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.

Contact Blayze White for information about Youth Work:

youthworkermarlborough42@gmail.com.

or visit: <http://devotion-marlborough.co.uk>. Please continue to pray for the work of Devotion with young people.

## ALPHA

Please continue to pray for Alpha which continues to meet weekly from 7.00pm on Wednesdays in St Mary's Church Hall, Marlborough.

This is the well known Christian basics course; if you are interested or want further information please contact David Maurice: [david\\_maurice2000@yahoo.com](mailto:david_maurice2000@yahoo.com) or Simon Mills: [simon@clatford.org.uk](mailto:simon@clatford.org.uk)



## Family News from your local Community by Audrey Peck

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**Sheila Hanson** has recently moved to College Fields from Priorsfield where she lived for nearly 36 years. She has a new grandson Samuel Matthew born in July to Ed and Sarah and living in Ealing, London. Samuel is cousin to Harry John born to Tom and Flo last September and living in Tavistock, Devon.

Last year **Barbara Bower** was watching the youngsters enjoying Marlborough Fair rides and told me about her daughter, Jane's, friendship with Debbie Jennings. When they were teenagers Debbie used to spend time with Jane in her house behind Stratton's Grocery (now Dorothy Perkins) where Jane's father was manager while Debbie's parents were busy erecting their stalls and rides. The girls have kept in touch for more than 40 years.

**Peter Banyard** is well known as the picture framer who worked from the White Horse Book Shop until he retired. When Peter's mother died in Beverley the family found a letter addressed to his late father as Herr Banyard on December 23rd, 1935. It was to thank him for sending a safety strap, which he had found on the battle field in WW1 and came from the Red Baron's plane, back to Frau von Richthofen, the Red Baron's mother. It said she had been deeply touched and the strap would be added to the Richthofen Museum. The writer expressed his ambition of bringing both nations close together and stability back to Europe. They enclosed a photograph of the Red Baron.

Janet Louth's grandson, **Harry Forbes**, had exceptionally good results in A levels, A\* Geography, A Government and Politics and A Maths. He is going to Magdalen College, Oxford to study Philosophy, Politics and Economics. Harry was at St John's for the last two years but before that he was tutored at home by his mother, Anna, who is well known for her work with Action for the River Kennet.

**Dorothy 'May' Greenaway** died with her family by her side, on 5th August in Savernake Hospital, where she was loved and cared for by the wonderful staff. Prior to her fall in February, she enjoyed spending time with her children and grandchildren, and the many friends she had made over the years. May was very young at heart, with a huge personality and loved to laugh and have fun. She enjoyed eating out and going on walks with the grandchildren and their partners, especially in Savernake Forest. She met the latest addition to her family a few weeks before she passed away. Florence May, her great grandchild was born on 12th June and brought her great joy and love, from the moment she was placed in her arms there was a unique bond between them. May grew up in Salisbury Road and continued living there after she married Ron. Even though she moved from Salisbury Road in later life, that would always be her home at heart. She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her. Our deepest sympathy to all the family.

## Devizes Foodbank

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The Devizes Foodbank is a Christian charity and part of the Trussell Trust Foodbank Network. It works with supporters and beneficiaries regardless of their faith or lack of faith. As a result of the growth in its activities throughout the Kennet area and the retirement of some long-standing volunteers it is now seeking people for the following roles:

**Trustees to join the Board of Trustees to provide strategic direction and use their skills and knowledge to ensure that it meets its responsibilities as it seeks to expand its operations. They will have a desire to help people in crisis through dealing with food poverty. People with communication/IT skills and experience in fund-raising activities will be particularly welcome.**

**Volunteer Administrators. Ideally they will have a knowledge of using spreadsheets and simple databases. Training will be provided.**

Anyone wanting more information or considering the above position(s) should contact Peter Brearley (Chair of Trustees) on 01380 738070 or at [pj.brearley@gmail.com](mailto:pj.brearley@gmail.com).

Marlborough acts as a collection and distribution point for the Devizes Foodbank. Since many members of our community benefit from the Foodbank's activities the Trustees are particularly keen to appoint a Trustee from the Marlborough Area. Please give this consideration.

## Brilliant Young International Pianists and Musicians

### An-Ting Chang – Piano

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 7.30pm**

**St Peter's Church, Marlborough**

The 2016/17 season of upcoming young, international, classical musical stars performing in St Peter's Church begins with the celebrated young Taiwanese pianist, An-Ting Chang.

An-Ting studied at the Royal College of Music and has featured in many radio programmes including BBC Radio 3 'In Tune'. She has performed in many festivals including the Newbury, Cheltenham and Berlin (Academy of Arts) Festival.

***Her very innovative programme includes Gershwin 'Walking the Dog'; Saint-Saens 'Carnival of the Animals'; Copland 'The Cat and the Mouse' and Rimsky-Korsakov 'Flight of the Bumblebee'. Also Mozart Variations.***

Tickets at £10 (£8 for members of the Marlborough Brandt Group and St Peter's Trust) are available from the White Horse Bookshop and Sound Knowledge.

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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:** 21 August – Gracie Kay Elizabeth Rough at St George’s  
4 September – Andrés Rees Garcia at St Mary’s

**Weddings:** 20 August Natalie Loney and James Pye at St George’s  
27 August – Laura Perry and Martyn Smith at St Mary’s

**Departed:** 5 August – Dorothy ‘May’ Greenaway (92) of 71 Priorsfield,  
Marlborough *St Mary’s and Kingsdown*

25 August – David Houston Bower (87) of 69 George Lane,  
Marlborough *Kingsdown*

28 August – Nancy Whitaker (96) of 8 Wye House Gardens,  
Marlborough *St Mary’s and Kingsdown*

## The Value of Fairtrade

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October 10.30 am – 4.00 pm**

**St Paul’s Church, Malmesbury Road, Chippenham, SN15 1PS**

Up to 100 people from across the South West of England, including recognised Fairtrade Towns, involved in supporting Fairtrade will be meeting to discuss how the sale of fairly traded products which benefit producers in the developing world can continue to be encouraged and supported.

The Conference will be addressed by the Director of the Fairtrade Foundation, and by a gold miner from Peru who will discuss the impact that the Fairtrade movement has had on increasing health, safety, income and justice for his workers.

The Conference will be attended by Fairtrade community groups, representatives of the Churches and retailers selling Fairtrade products.

All are welcome. Admission is free and lunch will be provided. There is a small amount of funding available for travel expenses for those travelling from some distance to Chippenham.

For further information please contact the South West Fairtrade Coordinator, Jenny Foster. [bristolfairtradenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:bristolfairtradenetwork@gmail.com) (Tel: 0117 922 4916)

# Marlborough Church Contacts

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*Chaplain, Marlborough College*

**The Revd Heather Cooper**

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*Minister, Christchurch Methodist*

**The Revd Miri Keen**

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**The Revd Dr David Maurice**

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**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*

## GOOD MEAL, GREAT TALK, WONDERFUL FRIENDS

The Marlborough and Hungerford Ladies Luncheon Club was founded in 1959 by a group of Marlborough ladies. Meeting nine times a year, the club transferred to Hungerford about 2000 and now meets at the Town Hall with the catering done by Coleshill of Swindon. Following each luncheon, there is a different guest speaker and the talks cover a wide range of subjects. Anyone interested in the Luncheon Club should contact Caroline Goodfellow on 01672 516353 or Kathleen Walker on 01488 684861

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All items for the November issue by **Tuesday 11th October**.

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