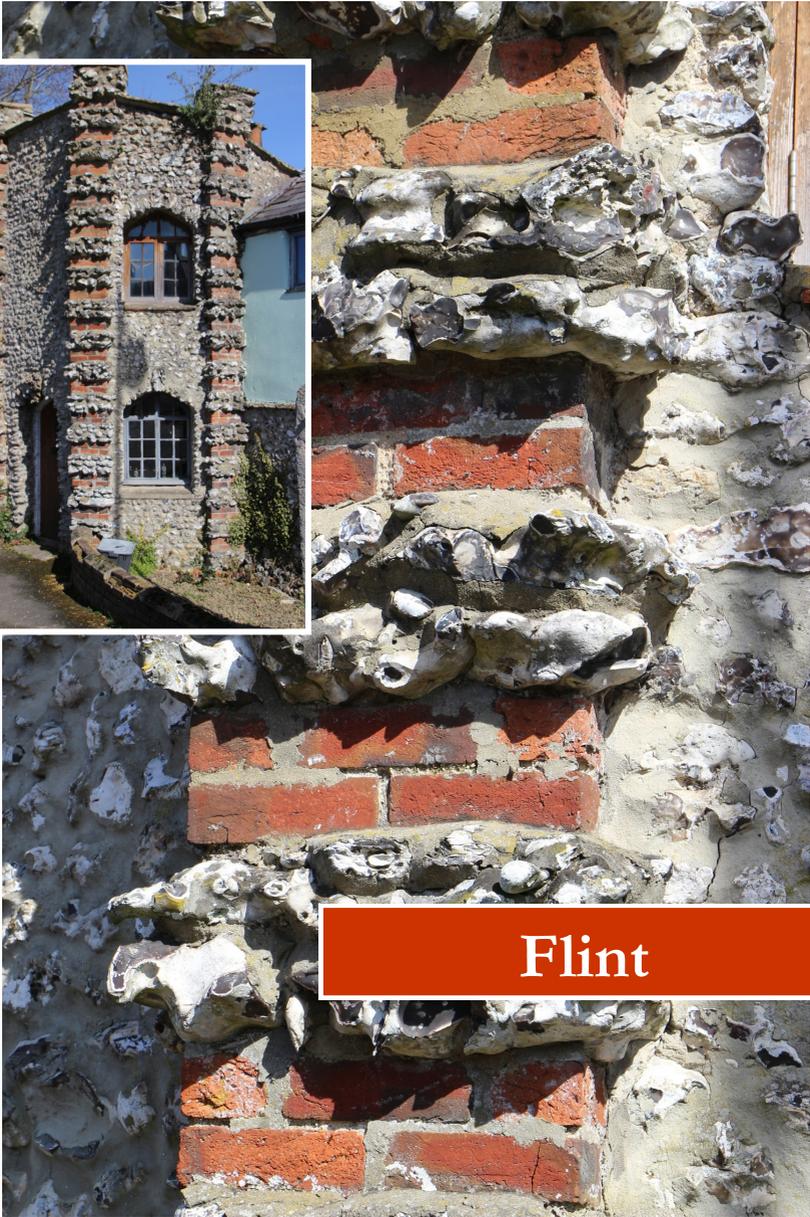

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TOWER_{AND}TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

NUMBER 682 JUNE 2018



Flint

Under our feet in Marlborough, in thin seams through the chalk, lie layers of flint nodules. How these formed is set out in Richard Clarke's article later. And how they influenced building styles locally is addressed by Chris Rogers. Long before the use of metals - and indeed later - because it could be cloven easily to a sharp edge, it was the way to form cutting tools, arrowheads and the like. Later until the invention of friction matches in the nineteenth century, flint and steel, kept in a tinderbox, was the only way to start a fire, to light a candle or to cook. How hard dark cold mornings must have been!

But flint was also used from the 17th century in flintlocks on firearms, and from the 18th century the similar gunlock was used on naval cannon. These are covered later. Finally flint had industrial uses, both in glazes for ceramics and in high quality glass. This too is explored later.

Alexander Kirk-Wilson - Editor

Wiltshire is famous for many things, Salisbury cathedral, Wadworth beer and Neolithic ruins but most especially for its churches and houses built from flint. Flint also used to be made into axes, scrapers, awls, and other tools because it is hard and leaves a sharp useful edge when broken. Flint is made of silica, (silicon dioxide, like sand) and is found in the chalk, especially in the upper parts of the rock formation. Flint is formed partly from the opaline skeleton of sponges and their fossils are commonly preserved as flint. Chalk rock itself is detritus from three main sorts of microscopic marine organisms, coccoliths, diatoms and radiolaria. Coccoliths, and the less common foraminifera (closely related to amoebae) secrete plates and shells respectively made of calcium carbonate and this makes up the bulk of the limestone rock. But when times are good for phytoplankton blooms the ooze on the sea bottom may contain a high proportion of the beautiful opaline skeletons of diatoms and radiolaria. Flinty layers may then form distinct layers in the chalk as the unstable opal breaks down into a glass-like gel. This alteration of both the microscopic silicious material and the sponge skeletons is believed to happen after the phytoplankton bloom has ended and a few additional metres of ooze have been deposited. Organic material in the ooze is slowly consumed by aerobic bacteria until all the free oxygen in the sediment is used up. Sulphate-reducing bacteria then consume the remainder liberating smelly hydrogen sulphide. This does several things, it reduces iron to iron sulphide turning the ooze temporarily black, it makes the pore water in the sediment acidic which may dissolve shells, especially those adjacent to decaying organic remains, and it provides a chemical environment that favours the precipitation of silica as flint. Sometimes this flint occupies cavities where shells have been dissolved, forming a silica cast of the carbonate original.

Although flint has been used for construction it is difficult to work and walls may need stone courses for stability. Most old houses built of rock quarried from the chalk used so called "chalk rock" instead. Some of these harder limestone layers formed at a time when deposition of ooze ceased for some reason and the seabed had time to become hardened by various mechanisms. Others are normal chalk ooze with an added component, volcanic ash. The location of the volcanoes that dumped considerable quantities of ash into the chalk sea is not known but they were probably both large and quite distant. Such layers can typically be traced over much of northern Europe and recorded volcanic activity resembling that along the great African rift systems of the present day, only in this case they were associated with the episodic opening of the north Atlantic ocean. Such events began long

before the deposition of the chalk, most notably in the middle of the Jurassic period, when the Fullers Earth formation was deposited. This useful deposit consists of much altered volcanic ash and may record the failed attempt of the North Sea basin to split asunder and form an arm of the north Atlantic.



One of the pleasures of living in Marlborough is being surrounded by a landscape so obviously worked by humans for thousands of years. Lots of other landscapes have been similarly exploited but the visible signs have long disappeared. The downs are different and we are lucky.

Much of what we see - the tumuli, the West Kennet long barrow, Avebury, the Marlborough mound, the Overton Down field systems, was constructed with flint tools - usually at one remove (flint tools used to make wooden or bone tools for earthmoving). Indeed the oldest items which appear to be knapped flint tools are some 2 million years old. Although later flint cutting edges are very finely crafted, simply striking a big flint with a hammer-stone will generally produce useful sharp flakes. YouTube has a number of interesting demonstrations of knapping to produce sharp spear points.

Industrial uses of flint

Flint did not have many other uses since medieval times beyond building and fire-lighting. Disappointingly what is commonly known as flint glass - with its high refractive index and its other useful optical qualities - is not made with flint. It was briefly in the late 17th century where the flint nodules were a source of high purity silica used to make a potash lead glass that was the precursor of lead crystal. The name has stayed in use while the process has changed.

It was however long used in the English ceramics industry as pebbles in the ball mills used to grind glazes and other raw materials (steel balls would contaminate the ground material with iron). It was also used in the ceramics industry, after being fired to around 1,000°C then ground, as a constituent of the clay. But this use has now been replaced by quartz of a more accessible sort.



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Flintlocks and Gunlocks:

AKW

The earliest personal firearms were matchlocks - the gunpowder was ignited by a length of smouldering slow-match gripped by jaws linked to the trigger - the 'lock.'

During the seventeenth century this and various other developed locks were replaced by the flintlock and the weapon became the musket. Now when the trigger was squeezed a shaped piece of flint gripped in the lock swung forward, simultaneously pushing aside the iron lid to the 'pan' holding a small amount of gunpowder and (from friction against the lid) showered sparks into the pan. This would ignite the powder in the pan which in turn would ignite through a small hole in the barrel the main gunpowder charge and the (musket) ball would go on its way. This left its mark on the language - notably the 'flash in the pan' when the small amount of gunpowder would ignite but not the main charge. And the army still calls normal rifle ammunition 'ball.' The flintlock musket lasted in British service almost 300 years.



From about the 1750s the principle was slowly applied to naval gunnery - but only slowly as it was difficult to adapt existing cannon. Traditionally naval cannon were fired by a sailor with a glowing lintstock on a stick touching the exposed powder in the cannon's vent from one side (he could not be behind the gun because of the recoil). When the gunlock replaced this method the sailor could stand behind the gun, but far enough back to be clear of the recoil, and fire the gun by tugging on a cord attached to the gunlock. As he could see the roll of the ship (and the gun's elevation) and firing was almost instantaneous this greatly increased the effectiveness of the gunfire; fewer cannon balls went over the enemy ship or into the water short of it.

Flint is a very hard form of the mineral quartz. Layers of flint nodules are found abundantly within the very soft limestone known as chalk. Here in Marlborough we are in one of the most extensive areas of chalk in England and as it is very easily eroded, nodules of flint of all sizes readily appear at the surface. These nodules are a dirty white on the exterior, but they can be broken open to reveal a grey, pearly and glassy interior.

The very special properties of flint have been known since the Stone Age, when early man discovered that flint could be chipped to produce hard and very sharp splinters which made excellent tools. As flint is very hard and chemically inert, it has been used as the building material of choice throughout the chalk country of southern and eastern England since very early times. Not only is it found beneath your feet, and therefore readily available, but there is a distinct lack of better building materials here. You need to look to the Bath stone quarries in the Corsham area, or to Chilmark, west of Salisbury, to find good building stone; a very expensive option in Medieval times. Fortunately Marlborough has been blessed with local supplies of a hard crystalline sandstone, known locally as sarsen which has been a valuable supplement to the flint.

Building with flints is a very skilful operation. The flints themselves are usually split open or 'knapped' to produce a hard and smooth surface, ideal for walls. Sometimes the small round flint 'cobbles' of matching size are laid in rows and set in place with lime mortar. However a more satisfying result can be achieved by using 'knapped' flints; nodules that have been split open to reveal the dark and glassy surfaces which are so familiar. These can be laid in carefully graded layers or even in patterns, such as 'herringbone'. However, it is difficult to make a clean and resistant edge to a flint wall, so you will find that the corners are often 'quoined' in brick or dressed stone, as are door and window frames. This contrast in colour and texture is what makes flint buildings so attractive. Flint garden walls also need some protection from the weather. So they are often capped with clay tiles or even thatch since rainwater would soon dissolve away the lime mortar. In the Marlborough area it was common practice to build the flint houses on a platform of solid dressed sarsen stones, readily available on the Downs.



Where there was an even greater shortage of stone the problem of weathering was resolved by building circular church towers, so there were not exposed edges. One such local circular church tower is at Welford in the Lambourn valley north of Newbury, where a very early and ruinous circular tower was rebuilt in the 19th century. Quite frequently flint was used in partnership with other materials, a style called ‘flushwork’. Sometimes a couple of rows of brick divide up the flint wall, or brick columns are used like ‘fencing posts’. However the most sophisticated flushwork flint buildings lie in the Avon valley between Amesbury and Salisbury where houses great and small used blocks of Chilmark stone and panels of flint work to create attractive chequer designs. You can see local examples in Preshute church or West Overton where sophisticated patterns have been created from the dressed sarsen stones and flint.

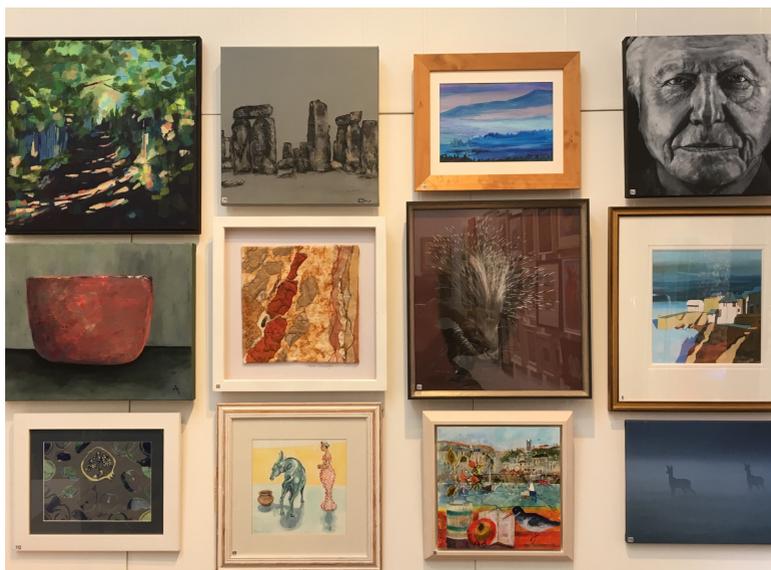
In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, flint was used extensively on country estates to create ‘quaint’ or ‘rustic’ lodges and even toll houses. 58 George Lane is a very fine example. Here the original flint cottage appears to be octagonal with the corners supported with flint and brick layered buttresses. It must have once been a very ‘picturesque’ sight.

Look around you; flint is very much part of the Marlborough built environment.

How quickly a year passes, and already we are marvelling at this year's entries for The White Horse Gallery's Annual Open Art Exhibition 2018.

Having received over one hundred submissions, this exhibition showcases a varied and eclectic mix of subjects, styles, mediums, textures and themes. Since the Annual Open Art Exhibition debuted two years ago, subjects such as the White Horses of Wiltshire, the local landscape and animal portraiture have proved popular. Alongside these, this year's entries range from traditional observational drawings, to abstract paintings, collage pieces and photography.

For any artist, seeing your work displayed in a proper gallery is terribly exciting.



Angus MacLennan, manager of The White Horse Bookshop who installed and catalogued this exhibition, voices a unanimous opinion about the show, 'this year, more than any other, I am struck by the quality of artistic expression that lies within our community (and beyond).'

There is something for everyone, and if you have not yet been to see the exhibition, I strongly encourage you to do so. If you missed the deadline for entering a piece this year, or feel inspired to submit something for 2019, then keep an ear out for all the information that will be released next Spring.

The Annual Open Art Exhibition 2018 is at The White Horse Gallery from 3rd May – 2nd June.

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As Spring moves towards early Summer, many of us will identify with Gerard Manley Hopkins' conviction that the world is charged with the grandeur of God. It was the contrast with human toil that prompted Hopkins to state that 'for all this nature is never spent; there lives the dearest freshness deep down things'.

The abundance and freshness of nature, especially vivid at this time of year, does indeed seem to hint at an everlasting source of life, but Hopkins' confidence that nature is 'never spent' is not one we can share today.

We know that areas of the natural world are indeed 'spent', that deforestation and the ensuing desertification are having significant impacts on livelihoods, especially of the poor. And also how in Britain and Europe, both biodiversity and bio-abundance have declined significantly over the past 40 years.

The scale of the challenge is so great that it can lead to a sense of despair and resignation - the (understandable) feeling that on my own I can't make a difference. If I were on my own, perhaps that despair might be justified, but of course no individual is on their own - we all live *together*.

Accordingly, the smallest of acts can begin to have an impact when they are carried out in tandem with others.

We have a wonderful example of this on our very own doorstep in the form of the Marlborough Downs Space for Nature, a project led by local farmers working together with a shared vision 'to improve the condition and connectivity of the ecological network of the Marlborough Downs and to connect people to the downland landscape'.

Just as neighbouring farms can enhance each other's work by following the same practices *together*, so can individual people and individual churches. For churches, as custodians of land as well as buildings, have a significant part to play.

The potential for churches to play their part in caring for the environment has been recognised in the existence of the Eco Church initiative and the simple test that explores five key areas of church life: Worship and teaching; Management of church buildings; Management of church land; Community and global engagement; Lifestyle.

An opportunity to learn more about both Eco Church and also the pioneering work of Marlborough Downs Space for Nature is offered to us on June 14th 7.30pm when an Open Meeting of the Marlborough Deanery Synod will meet in the middle of the Marlborough Downs themselves!

continued...

The venue for the meeting is the Members' Barn at the Barbury Castle Estate, SN4 0QZ courtesy of the hospitality of Barbury Castle Estate. Do come along if you possibly can.

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed. Why do men then now not reckon his rod?
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;
And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;
And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs —
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

--o000o--

ADVANCED 'WARNING' FOR GRANDPARENTS AND PARENTS

MESSY Get There! Holiday Club

29th to 31st August

After last year's success, the summer of 2018 will see a new instalment of the Get There! Holiday Club. This year's theme is MESSY!

Get There! is aimed at children aged 7-11. It will take place at the Marlburian Centre and the College Playing Fields from Wednesday 29th August to Friday 31st August 9.30am - 1pm.

The cost for children is £7.50 per day, £20 for three days and financial support is available. On Friday there will be a closing act of worship at St Mary's Church followed by a BBQ for the whole family. The Holiday Club is supported by Marlborough Churches Together. If you know anyone who would like to come or if you would like to be involved in any way, please contact Janneke (jblokland@gmail.com / 515970). The deadline for registration to attend is 13th July, but offers for help are welcome after that!

What's on in June

Regular events

Every Monday

7.30pm: Christchurch. Marlborough Choral Society.

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

Every Tuesday

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

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

Every Wednesday

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

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

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

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

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

Every Thursday (or some Thursdays)

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

10:30-12 noon: Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. Singing for the Brain. Alzheimer's Support. 01225 776481. (*Every Thursday during term-time.*)

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

2pm Mildenhall Village Hall. Marlborough Floral Club. £30 a year membership. £5 guest. 520129. (*1st Thursday*).

Every Friday

10-12 noon: Christchurch Crush Hall. Food bank is available but there is no coffee morning.

Every 2nd Saturday

10-12 noon: Library. Marlborough & District Dyslexia Association. Drop-in advice. Help line: 07729 452143

June calendar

Until 2nd (Saturday)

9am-5.30pm White Horse Bookshop. Annual Art Exhibition.

3rd (Sunday)

Marlborough College. End

4th (Monday)

St John's Academy. Start o

2pm Kennet Valley Hall, I

Guild. Branch meeting and

'Afterwards . . .' Everyone

Marlborough Choral Socie

June, July and August. Re

6th (Wednesday)

7.30pm Wesley Hall, Oxfo

Rossini: 'A Walk in the Ita

welcome.

7th (Thursday)

2pm Mildenhall Village Ha

Demonstrator: Nicky Hea

Competition: 'An Herbac

861279.

8th (Friday)

7.30pm St Mary's Church,

McCaldin (mezzo-sopran

(members £12), children f

9th (Saturday)

6.30pm Glebe Farm, Mild

Ball!' Dinner & Dancing +

£70. In aid of Julia's Hous

335400.

10th (Sunday)

11am - 4pm. Open Farm,

2.00 - 6.00pm Merchant's

7.30pm St Peter's Church.

11th (Monday)

7.30pm Bouverie Hall, Pev

Pewsey Vale: Lecture by S

of Half Term.
of Term 6.
Lockeridge. Embroiderers'
d talk by Christine Chester:
welcome.
ty - no meetings during
-start 17th September.
ord St. WI. Talk by Maura
lian Style 2'. Guests
all. Floral Club.
l: 'Creative Creations'.
ous Border'. Guests £5.
Bedwyn. Concert: Clare
, Paul Turner (piano). £15
ree.
enhall SN8 2LR. 'Have-a-
- raffle & auction. Black tie.
e. Amanda Palmer 07976
tractor rides, eats (see p.26)
House Open Gardens
Concert: (see p.16)
wsey. The Arts Society
ue Jackson: 'The Huguenot

Silkweavers of Spitalfields'. All welcome: £7.

12th (Tuesday)

7.15pm Town Hall. Live Screening from The Royal Ballet: 'Swan Lake'. £15 in adv, £17,50 on door.

13th (Wednesday)

12.30pm 40 St Martins. Widows' Friendship Lunch. All welcome. 514030.

15th (Friday) – 17th Sunday

Gardening Association. Weekend visit to Wales.

18th (Monday)

11am Ellendune Community Centre, Wroughton. The Arts Society: Kennet & Swindon. Lecture by Nicholas Henderson: 'Anglo Saxon and Norman England – Architecture and Cultural Change'. Guests welcome (£7) 01793 840790.

7.30pm Kennet Valley Hall. National Trust Association. AGM followed by Wiltshire Archaeology Update by Melanie Pomeroy Kellinger.

19th (Tuesday)

7.30 - 9.00pm Mustard Seed. Study Group (see p.27)

20th (Wednesday)

8.30am – 4.30pm The Merchant's House. Visit to Sir Roy Strong's 'Laskett Garden' in Herefordshire. £18.50 (including picnic and coach). Tickets in advance from MH. 511491.

21st (Thursday)

7.30pm Marlborough Community & Youth Centre, St Margaret's Mead. Filling Station meeting (see p.26)

22nd (Friday)

7pm Wilton Windmill. 'For Whom the Bell Tolls'. Murder mystery & hog roast. £27.50. 07769 97779

26th (Tuesday)

7.30pm St Peter's Church. Citizens' Climate Lobby. (see p.16)

27th (Wednesday)

Gardening Association. Visit to Hidcote and Kiftsgate Gardens.

29th (Friday)

12 noon. Marlborough College. End of Summer Term.

30th (Saturday)

9am start. Greatwood Stables, Marlborough. Horse Show in association with Retraining of Racehorses. Classes from £5. Free parking/dogs welcome/free entrance for non competitors. info@greatwoodcharity.org or 514535.

7.30pm St Mary's Church. Marlborough Concert Orchestra Summer Concert. Adults £10, Students £2. (see p.19)

30th (Saturday) to 6th July (Friday)

10.00am-4.00pm St Peter's Church. Flower Festival (see below)

1st July (Sunday)

6.00pm St Peter's Church. Annual Service of Evensong. (see below)

Events at St Peter's Church

Brilliant Young International Musician Concert 'A Summer Evening with Schubert'

Sunday 10th June 7.30pm

Leigh Michelow (soprano) and Henry Seaman (piano)

Tickets £10 from White Horse Bookshop or Sound Knowledge'

Citizens' Climate Lobby

Tuesday 26th June 7.30pm

The local branch of the national organisation - an opportunity to find out more and get involved locally in a global movement.

Flower festival

Saturday 30th June - Friday 6th July

10.00 - 4.00pm daily

A summer festival of flowers on the theme of St Peter and St Paul to celebrate the 40th birthday of St Peter's Trust

St Peter's Annual Service of Evensong

Sunday 1st July at 6.00pm

All are welcome at this one and only service of the year where the preacher will be the Rev Canon Keith Lamdin, with singing by the Avebury Vocal Ensemble.

Marlborough Churches Together

Usual Sunday Service times

Christchurch, New Road (Methodist)

10.30am Morning Service with 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 Sunday)

10.00am All Age Service (3rd 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 and 3rd Sunday)

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

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP on 4th Sunday)

10.00am All Age Worship (1st Sunday); Parish Communion and Junior Church and crèche on all other Sundays

5.30pm Informal service except on 1st Sunday.

St Thomas More, George Lane (Roman Catholic)

11.00am Sung Mass (See also below)

Marlborough College Services are shown at the College Chapel

Weekday Services

St Mary's Holy Communion: 10.30am Wednesday

St Thomas More Mass: 10.00am Mon, Tues, Wed and Sat Holy Days

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

Teddy Prayers and Picnic: 2-3pm every 2nd & 4th Wed

The more things change, the more they stay the same

Chekhov's bitter-sweet comedy

The Cherry Orchard

Thursday 12th July 2018

in the garden at Maizey Lodge,
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Performance starts 7.30pm (whatever the weather!)

Gates open from 6.00pm for picnics. Bring your own chairs.

Bar/coffee/ice creams/W.C.

Tickets: Adults £14.00 Children (under 16) £7.00 Family £38.00 (2A 2C)

Tickets in advance only 01672 – 512125 / maizey50@gmail.com

Summer Concert - St Mary's Great Bedwyn

Tuesday 3rd July 7.30 (doors and bar 7.00)

The Choir of Gonville and Caius College Cambridge

Various works including Fauré's Requiem

Kennet Community Transport

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And if you are really gallant, we could also do with someone not yet 70 on our small committee.

Please contact:

Roger Hagerty (01672 540698) or Alexander Kirk Wilson (01672 513861)

Marlborough Church Contacts

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The Revd Dr Janneke Blokland

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Assistant Chaplain, Marlborough College

The Revd Heather Cooper

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The Revd Dr David Maurice

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Associate Minister, Marlborough Anglican Team

The Revd Tim Novis

892209; twgn@marlboroughcollege.org
Senior Chaplain, Marlborough College

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Merchant's House Open Gardens

Sunday 10th June 2.00 - 6.00pm

10 local gardens will be open

Tickets £6 in advance from The Merchant's House

or £8 on the day Children under 14 free



Marlborough Concert Orchestra

Summer Concert

Saturday, 30th June at 7.30pm

St Mary's Church, Marlborough

Smetana:	Vitava
Bizet:	Excerpts from L'Arlésienne Suites
Schumann:	Symphony no.3 'Rhenish'

Ticket £10 adults, £2 students
from 'Sound Knowledge or on the door'
Licensed bar and raffle



Family News: Audrey Peck

Annie and Andrew Studdert-Kennedy came to live in the Rectory in 2002. They celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on May 22. Congratulations Annie and Andrew. They plan to mark this with a special family holiday with their family later in the year. Local children will remember their children at St Peter's and St John's. Jamie (23) is working for Raconteur a publisher that specialises in Business Reports, Phoebe (21) is studying Comparative American Studies at Warwick University but is currently spending the third year of this course in Madrid. Megan (19) is at Manchester University reading Classical Studies and Alice (19) is working as an intern for a Musical Events manager in London.

Michael and Kay Cripps reached two milestones recently. In April they celebrated their Diamond Wedding with a Buffet lunch for extended family, with lots of talk, and black-and-white photos of The Day showing on the TV – enjoyed by all. They came here from Aldbourne and Michael worked from 1981 till 1994 as a Priest in the Anglican Team, latterly as Vicar of Minal. He was active in the Marlborough Ecumenical Parish, and after retiring (and a Chaplaincy in France) was from 1999 till 2004 a very energetic Chairman of **Tower & Town**. In May Michael reached his 90th. birthday, around which they welcomed friends to informal tea/coffee. They thank members of St George's Church, their Quiet group, and other friends and neighbours for their good wishes and prayers. Congratulations to them both. Their wedding text was *'They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength'*.

Mabel Horsell's funeral was at St. Mary's Church and the Town Cemetery. Her daughter, Lin, says that she was born in Berwick Bassett and after marrying Frank in 1956 they lived in Manor Cottage East Kennet and later lived in Avebury. After living there in Manor Cottage they moved to part of the Manor itself for seven years, working for Sir Francis and Lady Knowles. They came to Marlborough in 1977 and she was a cook at Combe End Care Home. Mabel loved baking and gardening and she enjoyed coach holidays. She will be sadly missed by Lin, her sister, Chris, and brothers, Richard, Steve and Alan, and Mabel's two grandsons, Jon and Toby.

Jackie Stoker died in March. She married in 1955 and came to live in London Road in 1973 with her husband and sons, Jeremy and Dominic and her late daughter, Alison. While working as the secretary at the Town Council offices in 1, The Green she was acting Town Clerk for a while after Fred Richardson died. I remember her as the key holder for the tennis courts on the Rec.

continued over

Jackie worshipped at the Catholic Church, worked with the WRVS meals on wheels and delivered Tower & Town, always having time for people. She moved to Priorsfield in 1994. Dominic described her as a typical Margo from The Good Life. Our sympathy to Jeremy, Dominic and Jackie's seven granddaughters.

Bruce Tulloh, one of the great distance runners of his generation, died 28th April, aged 82. His feats were legendary – an early four-minute miler, running barefoot on a grass track; gold medallist at 5,000 metres in the 1962 European Championships, and his epic record-breaking 1969 run from Los Angeles to New York, averaging about 45 miles a day. “Running defines me” he said, and he was dedicated to his sport, but he was also a man of very many parts. Bruce, with Sue and their three young children, Clive, Jojo and Katherine, arrived in Marlborough in 1973 as a biology teacher at Marlborough College, after teaching in Kenya where he also coached a number of Kenyan athletes, an interest that continued through his life. In Marlborough he immersed himself in coaching the College track and cross-country runners, as well as a stream of amateurs and professionals who came to him for advice. He wrote poetry, and a number of coaching manuals for runners of varied age groups; he had a subtle but quirky sense of humour and a fine tenor voice. He loved music, and choral singing; he was an enthusiastic player of the harmonica and concertina, and an avid reader with a hugely retentive memory. He was a keen botanist and gardener and an enthusiastic if slightly accident-prone sailor. And his love of exercise, competition and the great outdoors remained unabated, such that he celebrated his 80th birthday by walking from Marlborough to Big Ben. His was a life very well lived.

From the Registers

Baptism:

29 April - Bohdi Banks, Esmæ Hounslow and Layla Cannings at St George's

6 May - Oliver Bowen at St John the Baptist

Departed:

8 April - Florence 'Mabel' Horsell (85) of Southview Place, Marlborough

St Mary's and Marlborough Cemetery

15 April - Brenda Mary Rowe (94) of Orchard Road, Marlborough

St George's and West Wilts Crematorium, Semington

26 April - Dinah Faultless (90) of Highfield Residential Home, Marlborough

Kingsdown Crematorium

The Marlborough Mop Fairs provide great fun and excitement, and long may they continue, but maybe, just maybe, they could be moved somewhere less environmentally sensitive than our over polluted High Street. Somewhere more convenient for the Showmen allowing their stalls and rides to be set up just once to trade a whole week if desired without the necessity of dismantling on the Saturday nights. Somewhere more acceptable to local traders who have repeatedly asked for them to be sited elsewhere. Somewhere that would not cause traffic and parking problems. Somewhere that would allow Marlborough to have an attractive High Street instead of its current status as a barren car park. The fairs demand that there be no fixtures on the High Street but with no fairs we could have trees, street furniture and shelters, attractive lamp posts. even a fountain or sculptures.

If one asks why the Mop Fairs are not moved to the Common (the obvious place where other fairs and circuses are held) the usual answer is that they are there due to a charter of King John and it would take an act of Parliament to change it. Both these statements are quite wrong and the myth is possibly the fault of William Golding, plus a popular misconception about the Marlborough Charter.

In his 1967 novel 'The Pyramid' Golding commented that traders in 'Stillbourne', a thinly disguised Marlborough, wanted the Mop Fairs moved from the High Street and he criticised the local council by quipping that it would take an act of Parliament to persuade them do anything. As a result of this humour it has been assumed ever since that it was an act of Parliament, or a king's statute, that established the fairs. There is no charter or statute concerning Mop Fairs.

In the Marlborough Charter of 1204 King John did grant a fair but it was an eight day trade fair and was not on the High Street which was far too narrow in those and days and for some 450 years afterwards. As the fair was linked to St Peter's Church it is believed it was held on St Peter's Field, now River Park.

Mop Fairs, ie, hiring and firing fairs, came into existence a hundred and fifty years *after* King John's death. Although initially called 'Statute Fairs' they were not set up by any benevolent statute, they resulted from a punitive law of Edward III after the Black Death. It restricted workers pay and freedoms to pre plague conditions and was for the benefit of employers, keeping the workers poor and dependent.; fairs were not mentioned in the statute at all.

There is no evidence that Marlborough had Mop Fairs before the 1700s and the name Mop Fair in England dates from the late 17th century.

So what's more important? Preserving a myth and the increasing diesel pollution or solving several problems and making Marlborough a beautiful place?



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NEWS from the Churches

Devotion

We would like to continue to run Hangout @ Devotion over the summer holidays, but to do so we need volunteers to be available. We are desperate for more volunteers, and currently run a rota system, so if anyone was interested, even one Thursday a month, it would be a great help.

Civic Service

Sunday 24th June at 10.00am the Civic Service will be held in St Mary's Church marking Youth and Education in Marlborough. The Choir from Marlborough St Mary's will be singing and musicians from both St John's and the College are also expected to be present. Mayors from across Wiltshire have been invited and so, too, have other local organizations which have involvement with young people

Women's Fellowship in June

5th Members meeting

19th Rose Beal

12TH Rev. Heather Cooper

26th TBA. Bring and buy

Sunday Lunch Club

Next lunch Sunday 10th June. Enquiries to Christchurch Office – 01672 513701.

Coffee, Cake and Chat

An informal coffee morning after the school drop-off during term-time on Mondays 9am-10.30am at The Youth and Community Centre, St Margaret's Mead, Marlborough.

We are looking for volunteers to help run this group and also to provide cakes/biscuits. To register your interest or to find out more please contact Simon Mills: simon@clatford.org.uk.

Quiet Garden

The Quiet Garden at Glebe House, Minal is open by calling 01672 512665 for anyone who would like time for peace and reflection throughout the summer months.

Fraternal Meeting

The next Fraternal Meeting will be on Monday 4th June at 12.45pm at Friends' Meeting House, The Parade, Marlborough. All are welcome.

Filling Station

Meets on Thursday 21st June, 7.30pm at the Marlborough Community & Youth Centre with speaker Helen Azer. Helen is an associate minister of “Heartcry for Change” - worldwide ministry (heartcryforchange.com). She works alongside Rachel Hickson in encouraging and enabling the local church to connect with its community and bring a practical but spiritual message of hope.

LEAF Open Farm Sunday

10th June 2018 at 11am to 4pm. Displays and tractor rides throughout, at Temple Farm, Rockley, Nr. Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 1RU.

A national event aimed at supporting the local farming community. For more information please contact: Tel - 07989 519241 Email - john@templefarm.com

Event Description: On the day there will be tractor and trailer rides, animals to feed, places to play and local food to eat. We are proudly supported by many local farmers and companies who will offer a warm welcome to everyone from near and far. A small donation on arrival towards our Space For Nature Project (<https://www.spacefornature.net/>) will be gratefully received to ensure we can keep in touch with you in the future and offer other events all year round.

Messy Church: Caroline Philps writes:-

On 8th July at St Mary’s at 10 am we are pleased to welcome Martyn Payne to speak at our service. He has been working with Lucy Moore for the last 10 years leading the team overseeing Messy Church as it has spearheaded events around the UK and internationally. He will speak about some of his experiences and let us try out some Messy church activities. He has helped churches set up and run these events which have enabled families to share in craft, other activities, food and worship together in church. We hope then to run our second Messy church event of the year on Sunday 15th July at St Mary’s between 4 to 6 pm. Theme to be announced.

Gospel Workshop

Led by vocalist and musical director: Jo Sercombe, on Saturday 9th June (9.45am - 12noon) in St Mary’s Church, Marlborough. Tickets available from: Sound Knowledge or the White Horse Bookshop. Jo Sercombe works in Bath and nationally as a vocalist, Musical Director and workshop leader and is particularly keen to make singing accessible to all, regardless of previous experience. Cost: £10 adults and £5 for children over 10yrs - including refreshments.



Deanery Synod Open Meeting

On Thursday 14th June at 7.30pm there will be an Open Meeting of the Marlborough Deanery Synod which will learn about the Marlborough Downs Space for Nature initiative and the opportunities for local churches to support this through the Eco Church programme. The venue for the meeting is the Members' Barn at the Barbury Castle Estate, SN4 0QZ courtesy of the hospitality of Barbury Castle Estate.

Mustard Seed

Study Groups

Mustard Seed is hosting a series of Study Groups led by Janneke Blokland. They are based on SPCK's series of concise, authoritative guides to intelligent Christianity. Participants are strongly recommended to read the supporting booklets before the group discussion. Booklets are available to purchase from Mustard Seed. The meetings are held in Mustard Seed 7.30-9pm on the following dates: Tuesday 19th June - Why go to Church? by John Pritchard and Tuesday 17th July - What is Christianity? by Rowan Williams.

The Book Group

meets at Mustard Seed on Tuesday 5th June at 7.30pm when they will be discussing the novel "**The Gardener's Daughter**" by Kate Hitchens. Kate is coming to speak about her books on Monday 9th July - do put the date in your diary.

Prosecco and Fiction

Thursday 14th June - when different people will talk about Christian fiction they have enjoyed and what they felt didn't work. Come along to Mustard Seed at 7.30pm and be inspired to find some summer reading.

Marlborough Poverty Action Group,

MAPAG, will not meet in June, but the next meeting is on Monday 2nd July at 7.30 when Tom Wilkes of Swindon Equality Group will be present.

St Non's Retreat, 11th to 14th September

Now is the time to book for our annual ecumenical retreat on the glorious Pembrokeshire coast, led by Revd Dr Colin Heber-Percy, looking at *Revelations of Divine Love*, how God is revealed in our lives. Details and booking from Barney Rosedale (512205).

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Contributions and comments from readers are welcome. Please send articles and letters to the Monthly Editor or the Editorial Coordinator, other notices or announcements to the compiler. All items for the July issue by 12th June please.

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