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# TOWER AND TOWN

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Music in Marlborough

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AUGUST 2018 50P

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# TOWER<sup>AND</sup>TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

NUMBER 68 AUGUST 2018



## Music in Marlborough

In describing the impressive array of musical opportunities at Marlborough College, Philip Dukes notes the important role music plays in engendering a “strong cultural heart”. This applies, I think, not only to the college but to the whole town of Marlborough; we are lucky to live in a town with so much music in it and this edition of the magazine can only provide a snapshot of music in Marlborough.

However, I hope it gives a flavour of the town’s musical life, the most notable aspect of which must be the Marlborough International Jazz Festival, now sadly come to an end. Nick Fogg pays personal tribute. Kate Pooley and Luke Smith describe how music enriches their life and Samuel Robinson the excitement of hearing great music for the first time. Alan Pryor tells us of the joys of singing in the Community Choir, continuing in spite of the sad loss of Vanessa Lafaye, and we hear from two promoters: Andrew Bumphrey on grassroots music and Robin Pritchard on Marlborough Rising filling the town with music. On a different note (excuse the pun) Lilli Loveday tells us how her time at St John’s influenced her life choices.

My thanks to everyone who contributed so willingly and entertainingly. I hope you enjoy this taster of Marlborough’s music.

***Sarah Bumphrey- Editor***

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***Front cover: Marlborough Community Choir***

Compiler: Hugh de Saram

Proof readers: Mike Jackson, Julia Peel

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Well, it lasted 30 years and became the biggest event of its kind in England. Not bad for a small market town. Thousands of people flocked here from all over the globe. The Arts Council reckoned it brought over half a million pounds into the town over a single weekend, during which over 100 bands would perform. As *The Times* put it ‘At the Marlborough International Jazz Festival [MIJF], you’re never more than a yard away from a pint of ale, or a note of music.’

Major names featured in this little town, including Elkie Brooks, Darius Brubeck, Georgie Fame, Buddy Greco, Jules Holland, Humphrey Lyttelton, George Melly, Alan Price and Clare Teal. Artistes came to Marlborough from more than 60 countries. Not only that: it represented a start for many a talented young musician.

My own favourites? It’s a very difficult decision with so many brilliant acts, but I would say there are two. Bratislava may sound like an unlikely place for a revival of the big band sound of the inter-war years, but that’s what’s happened there. The ‘Hot Serenaders’ of that city laboriously transcribed 78 records from that era onto sheet music. The authentic sound is recreated and, for good measure, the sound of the Andrews Sisters by their singing trio, the Serenader Sisters: a remarkable feat. Excellent though that is, to me the most exciting artist we put on was L’il Jimmy Reid, the last of the great Louisiana Blues singers. Real blues is a dying voice. It is the music of poverty, oppression, back-breaking work and discrimination. As these abuses have declined, so has the music that they begot, so it was wonderful to hear the 77-year old Jimmy’s vibrant guitar, gritty vocals and haunting harmonica. We’ll certainly never hear anything like that again.

So why has it all ended? It’s a shame and, of course, a lot of people have been bereft about it. The facts are well-known and need not be repeated. Suffice it to say, that there is an increasing awareness, to the benefit of many parts of the nation, that towns are not just for traffic. For the survival of the historic market town, it’s important to get people to go there and MIJF did exactly that.

### ***Letter to the Editor from Kathy Perriman***

**Sir** - I would like you to pass on to the July editor, namely Sara Holden, my congratulations on producing what is in my opinion the best edition that I have ever read.

It was interesting and informative and truly enjoyable. As I have taken the magazine for many, many years it is not something that I say lightly.

Yours faithfully  
Kathy Perriman

*See also p.18*

Music has always been a part of my life. My mother and father are both trained professional singers, so I am constantly surrounded by music, especially singing. As I've got older singing has become a passion for me too. Throughout my education I have sung in all the school choirs available to me; I have been privileged to take part in many concerts and choral competitions, and nothing can stop me singing in the shower or humming a tune whilst completing my homework.

Music is one constant feature in my day-to-day life which enriches and uplifts. I may be the only person in my school year who has sung works by Handel and Bach, but I am certain that my broad knowledge of music (fostered by my parents) has made me richer culturally and a more interesting person. I believe that music, and singing in particular, should be an important part of everyone's life. Music allows you to escape reality as you lose yourself in the rhythm and the melody, and I believe that our identity is partly determined by the music we choose to listen to, or sing.

I am lucky that I am exposed to so many genres of music: I sing with Marlborough Choral Society (MCS) and I always say that I am proud to be their youngest member. Singing with MCS is the most wonderful experience. Despite the difference between my age and that of some of the other members, we are all brought together by the shared joy we find in singing.

People often ask me why I like singing and the honest answer is it gives me a sense of power and identity, something which many teenagers struggle with. The difficulty many people find expressing themselves is made so much easier through singing. It is something I am very lucky to have easy access to. I would recommend singing to anyone, even if it's just in the bathroom. Music is so important to all of our lives and I'm glad it plays such an important role in mine.

## From the Registers

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**Baptism:** 17 June – Baptism of Cariad Marsh at St George's

**Wedding:** 16 June - Dimitri Geremezoglu & Adrianna Tóth at St George's

### **Departed:**

29 May – John Alfred Etheridge (61) of Barnfield, Marlborough  
*St Mary's and Kingsdown Crematorium*

9 June – Edna 'Joan' Fulk (95) of Herd Street, Marlborough  
*St Mary's and Kingsdown Crematorium*

Music at Marlborough College offers something truly special both to the College community and to the public and parents, all of whom are fortunate enough to witness the very many concerts and events that take place throughout the year.

Over the last decade or so, far greater emphasis has quite rightly been placed within the College on the importance of a strong cultural heart, and music naturally plays a vital role in that process. Well over 500 pupils are actively involved in music within the College, spearheaded by 40 high quality Music Scholars who offer so much in energy, inspiration and talent to the greater enjoyment of all. Hardly a day goes by without some musical event of note, be it an informal concert, a chapel service, an evening recital, a masterclass, workshops, recordings, or the larger scale performances. The latter are usually given by the Symphony Orchestra, Brass (Wind Orchestra), Chamber Orchestra, Chapel Choir or Big Band, and include collaborations with the College's professional orchestra-in-partnership (London's Southbank Sinfonia), performances in venues in and around the town (St George's Church Preshute, St Mary's Church and the Merchant's House), as well as further afield in London (St Paul's Cathedral, The Royal Academy of Music, The Royal Over-Seas League), and abroad (most recently New York, Notre Dame and Poland).

In addition to our pupil based performances, there is also the evergreen professional Marlborough College Concert Series, now in its 77<sup>th</sup> season which offers concerts given by world class musicians.

Perhaps one of the most eagerly anticipated highlights on the horizon will be the reopening of the College's magnificent Memorial Hall this summer, following a major restoration. This will not only provide the College with a bespoke, state-of-the-art performing space but offer a fabulous venue for use by guest performers from around the world who can look forward to stunning acoustics to be enjoyed by both 'town and gown'. There will be no better example of this initiative than the forthcoming 'Memorial Hall Festival 2018' which takes place from November 1st - 11th, details of which will be advertised to the town in early summer.

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“Listen to this. It’ll change your life.” I’m being handed a CD by my Dad. A brightly coloured wash with stark black font running down the left-hand side like a playbill: “Stage Fright” by The Band. I’m in my early teens in a branch of an entertainment retailers that no longer exists. *The Band*, I marvel. I spend the next few months poring over liner notes and photos. **Big Pink, beards, Bob Dylan. And then there’s the music. Three powerhouse vocalists, multi-instrumental prowess and songs that sound like they spring straight from the well of the great North American canon. I’m obsessed.**

If you’re lucky, this kind of experience will happen to you multiple times throughout your formative years. Raiding Mum’s record collection: *Who’s Next*, *Dark Side of the Moon*, *Graceland*. Borrowing friends’ albums: *Tallahassee*, *Brighten the Corners*, *Millions Now Living Will Never Die*. Before taking the plunge on your own, following your muse into weird and wonderful and, yes, maybe even uncool territory: *Heavy Weather*, *A Love Supreme*, *Karma*, *The Nightfly*, *Toto IV*, *Abandoned Luncheonette*, *Hard Candy*, *Hot Rats*, *Glassworks*.

And just when you think you’ve got a handle on things, the potential for new aural epiphanies exponentially increases each Friday. I’ve worked at Sound Knowledge, Marlborough’s longstanding independent record shop, for the best part of seven years and, while there’s plenty of the admin that comes with the running of a small business, it doesn’t change the fact that I get to listen to and enthuse about a constant stream of brilliant new music.

Behind the counter of a record shop it pays to have Catholic tastes. Wait, forget the caveat. It pays to have Catholic tastes - because there’s so much brilliant stuff out there from places you’d never even think to look: Brazilian new wave disco, Nigerian funk and boogie, private press yacht rock from failed Californian musicians who never hit the big time except for two sides of vinyl – but among the slap bass and sax solos, they got to touch the stars.

I couldn’t begin to draw up a list of favourites; one man’s trash is another man’s treasure after all (as anyone who picks an album off our shelves and asks “Would I like this?” will surely attest). But I can trace my voyage of musical discovery, a great spider diagram of album credits, of city-wide scenes, of my Dad handing me a CD. Because those “listen to this” moments never stop if you don’t want them to.

**So here are five Great Songs from 2017/2018 by Artists You’ve Never Heard Of:**

Slow Dancer ‘Bitter’ - Wonderful Boz Scaggs-esque summer sunset jam from Australian Simon Okely.

*continued overleaf*

*(continued from previous page)*

Peter Oren 'Falling Water' - Ruminative, ecologically-aware Americana and an extraordinary vocal.

Once & Future Band 'Hide & Seek' - Slow-burning prog epic from the Oakland CA throwbacks.

Khruangbin 'Maria Tambien' - Urgent and insistent groove from the Thai funk-influenced Texan trio.

Jake Xerxes Fussell 'Have You Ever Seen Peaches...?' - One of the finest scholars and interpreters of American folk music working today (and a pretty mean guitarist to boot).

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## Marlborough Community Choir: Alan Pryor

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I joined the choir when it started in November 2010. I played guitar and thought joining the choir would be a good way to meet others with a similar interest. I thought it would be only short term but, nearly eight years later, I'm still singing.

It's like any workout, the more you do it the better you get and I found after a while I could reach notes that had only been possible in my youth. Much of this was down to Vanessa Lafaye, the choir's founder. She was a natural voice practitioner and with her guidance and enthusiasm she brought together a bunch of people, with varying degrees of singing confidence, and turned them into a successful choir. Her belief was "If you can talk, you can sing" and it should be fun. She convinced my wife Shirley, who had been told at school that she couldn't sing, to join the choir - and she loves it.

We've made many friends and there is a great atmosphere when we all get together to sing on a Wednesday evening. Although we are not a performance choir, we have sung several times at the Jazz Festival, the Christmas Lights switch-on and many other events in and around the town. There's a sense of pride when we start singing and the audience realises that we are surprisingly good. A highlight for choir members and for me personally, is singing for care home residents at Christmas.

Sadly, we lost Vanessa to cancer in March but she was still conducting the choir a few days before she died and our last performance, at the Civic Dinner, was one of our best; a fitting tribute. However, Vicky Sweeney, a great friend of Vanessa, has taken on the task of leading the choir. We hope to carry on singing and performing in Marlborough (see [marlboroughcommunitychoir.org](http://marlboroughcommunitychoir.org)). We are always pleased to welcome people (especially men) to the choir, even if you think you can't sing; there's no need to read music.

## *Luke is a sixth-former at Marlborough College*

I play cello, piano and bass guitar. I started playing the piano aged six. Four years later I began to play the cello and I have taken up bass guitar in the last four years.

I was inspired to play the cello after hearing Julian Lloyd Webber perform in Marlborough in 2010. I started taking cello lessons soon after this, aged ten. I decided to teach myself bass guitar as I was keen to explore other musical genres, particularly Jazz.

My greatest enjoyment comes from performing in ensembles. I have been lucky at school to have had the opportunity to play in many trios, quartets and other small ensembles, on both cello and bass guitar, and I have thoroughly enjoyed all these opportunities. Although I do enjoy solo performance, I believe there is more to be gained from ensemble playing. Many of my fondest musical memories – for example a recent performance of Bach’s Third Brandenburg Concerto – have come from ensemble performance rather than solo.

I would be lying if I didn’t admit that practising can sometimes be a tiresome and onerous activity, and I have often struggled to find the right balance between practising, school work, sport and time for relaxation. Sadly I don’t have the answer to overcoming a lack of motivation other than accepting that dedicated and regular practice is the only way to improve.

I have been lucky to have grown up in a family where music has an important day to day significance. As a matter of habit I start and end each day by listening to music. I listen to everything from modern hip hop to classical and, given the luxury of music streaming services, discovering new music is both easy and fun. Music is so important to me for many reasons. Whether I’m practising, performing, listening or reading, a large part of my time is spent doing some music-related activity. Although practice is largely solitary, there is also a social aspect to a lot of the music in my life, and from being part of ensemble groups such as the Symphony Orchestra and Chapel Choir I have made many of my closest friends and formed some of my most precious memories.



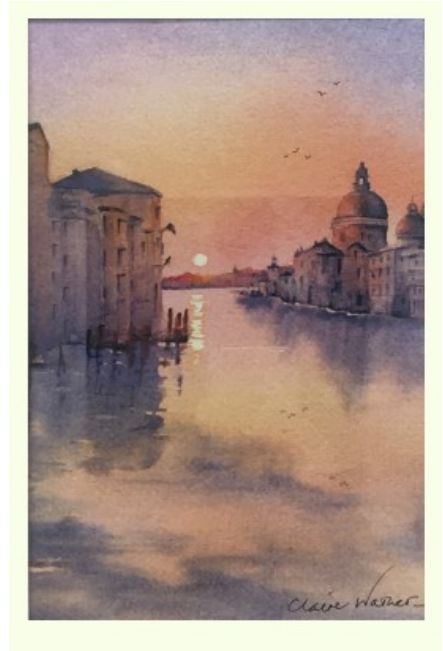
Another collaborative exhibition this month: White Horse Bookshop workshop tutors Claire Warner and Stuart Roper.

It's always a pleasure to have a tutors' exhibition in the gallery, and the work by these two professional artists is no exception. Claire's landscape watercolours and nature studies are delicate, graceful and dignified. Familiar scenes of beaches, rolling country hills and Venetian sunsets are subtle yet appealing. Claire's paintings are snapshots of scenes we like to see.

In contrast, Stuart Roper's acrylic paintings of wooded pathways, riverbanks and snowy villages are booming with light, reflection and colour. His paintings show the influence of the Scottish Colourists, but stylistically, his work is most recognisable because of the big, broad brush strokes he uses in order to create texture and moment.

Claire has won an SAA Bursary for her teaching entitled "Art for Therapy". She develops and runs courses for students of all abilities across the country. Both artists run very popular one-day classes at the bookshop, and both will be running workshops in the autumn term. A copy of the workshop programme is available to pick up from the shop.

Claire Warner watercolours & Stuart Roper acrylics was at the White Horse Bookshop between July 4th - July 29th 2018.



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Music plays an important part in our worship. When words are put to music it has a way of engaging the heart as well as the mind and can draw us into a sense of the presence of God. Over the past 50 years there has been an explosion of new hymns and worship songs. This, I believe, has been a great blessing to the Church and has enhanced our worship. But it can also cause problems. With increasing diversity of musical styles, it is harder to plan worship that appeals to all. For some, a formal choral evensong can transport them to heaven whereas for others this can leave them cold. Increasingly churches have music groups which lead the worship with contemporary worship songs which are a blessing to some but are off-putting to those who love the well known traditional hymns and more classical music. As I sometimes say, there are 'Radio 1 Christians' and 'Radio 3 Christians'. There is no 'right' way when it comes to style of music used to worship God – it is a matter of taste.

At St. Mary's Church 10am Parish Communion service we have consciously tried to steer a middle path with traditional hymns and modern worship songs. But it is not just about a balance between old and new. Those who choose the music try to pick hymns and songs which fit not only with the theme of the service as determined by the Bible readings but also the place within the service. The opening hymn / song is usually something which is 'up beat', encouraging everyone to open themselves to the presence of God. The next which comes between the Bible readings tends to be quieter and more reflective, causing us to respond in some way to God's word. The Offertory hymn when the collection is taken may have words that enable us to offer ourselves afresh to God before we move into the Communion. Then after we have received communion we have a 'Post Communion' song which is quiet and meditative enabling us to be still in God's presence. Then the final hymn is more upbeat sending us back out into the world, encouraging us to 'make Jesus known'. It is not possible to please everyone all of the time but we hope that through the different styles of music we can all experience God in a new way. I love the diversity that modern worship songs bring to our worship and am encouraged that the best of these modern songs are often sung on big occasions in Salisbury Cathedral.



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- Keep windows and doors closed
- Vacuum regularly and dust with a damp cloth.

Pharmacists are able to give advice or suggestions on treating hay fever, for example antihistamines which can help with itchy, watery eyes, sneezing and a blocked nose.

If you find your symptoms are getting worse or not improving after taking over the counter medication contact your GP surgery.

# What's on in August

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## Regular events

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### Every Monday

7.30pm: Christchurch. Marlborough Choral Society.

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

### Every Tuesday

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. Marlborough Community Choir.

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

2-3pm St George's, Preshute (*every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wed*) Teddy Prayers & Picnic. A service, tea & cakes for U5's & their carers.

### Every Thursday (or some Thursdays)

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

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

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

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

2pm Mildenhall Village Hall. Marlborough Floral Club. £30 a year membership. £5 guest. 520129. (*1<sup>st</sup> Thursday in the month*).

### Every Friday

10-12 noon: Christchurch Crush Hall. Food bank.

### Every 2nd Saturday

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

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## August calendar

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

WI. Away Day Visit to Ramsbury Brewery & Distillery with Will Thomas.

11am-3pm The Merchant's House. Cake Stall. In aid of the restoration of MH.



## **2<sup>nd</sup> (Thursday)**

2pm Mildenhall Village Hall. Marlborough Floral Club. Annual sub £30, Guests £5. 861279.

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

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

7.45pm Wesley Hall, Oxford St. Gardening Association. Talk by Eva Rogers: 'Best Fruit Varieties for your Garden'.

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

Wolf Hall (Home of Jane Seymour). Open Day with talk and book-signing by Alison Weir. Timings & further details to be announced nearer the time.

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

7.30pm Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. NT Association. Talk by Steve Marshall: 'Avebury's Prehistoric Waterscape'. £3. Non-Members £4.

## **23<sup>rd</sup> (Thursday)**

Gardening Association. Visit to Hestercombe Gardens.

## **29<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) – 31<sup>st</sup> (Friday)**

9.30am-1pm Marlburian Social Centre. Get There Holiday Club for all children aged 7-11. jblokland@gmail.com

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**Michael Burns and Sarah Hall**, formerly from Axford, searched for a nice venue for their wedding and found the beautiful Stone Barn in the Cotswolds. It was a fairy tale wedding with six bridesmaids, Emma Hall, Matron of Honour, Bertie Rathbone, Mary Coles, Vicki McCausland, Paddy Groves and Alice Rolfe. It all went to plan except best man, Jamie Hughes, lost his voice and could only say a few words. His friend stood in and read his carefully prepared speech. Congratulations Sarah and Michael. They are settling down in their home in Kingsbury St.

**Chris Musgrove** and his wife Sarah have lived at Temple Farm for many years. He retired at the end of June from his many jobs, managing Temple Farm and other estates and playing a major role in West Country and national farming committees. He has also had time for his hobbies rugby, sailing and travel. Sarah is a lay preacher with the Marlborough Anglican Team. We wish him a very happy and well deserved retirement.

**Joan Fulk**, nee Head, died aged 95 after a fall. She lived as a child in the Parade and won a scholarship to the Grammar School which nourished her lifelong love of literature and where her mother helped with needlework teaching. She was unable to go to university because of the war and found that training as a nurse did not suit her. She was later the secretary to the Grammar School Head, Mr. Stedman. She met American Army Staff Sergeant Oscar, the logistics officer whose task was to receive armaments at the station and take them to be stored in the forest. She was the first of many GI brides in Marlborough moving to North Carolina. They came back to manage the poultry section at Browns Farm on the edge of the forest where their daughter, Sarah, was born. They later became well known as the hosts at the Red Lion, Axford, popular with locals and visiting fishermen. They retired to Herd St. where Joan lived until she died. Our deep sympathy to her grandchildren Alex, Jason and Susie and 7 great grandchildren but especially to Sarah (Hicks).

Friends and family say goodbye to **Bill Stevens**. Bill sadly died on 20th June. He and his wife, Joan, have been long term residents of Castle Court, Marlborough, and prior to that lived in Rockley. Bill was a college lecture for many years and on retirement, enjoyed living in Wiltshire, overseas travel, playing bowls in Swindon, and following his favourite football team, Chelsea. His funeral was on the 10th July at Kingsdown Crematorium, Swindon, attended by his wife, Joan, daughters, Rachel and Rebecca, and many more friends and family.

# Marlborough Churches Together

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## 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

# Marlborough Church Contacts

---

**Fr John Blacker**

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

**The Revd Dr Janneke Blokland**

515970; jblokland@gmail.com  
*Assistant Chaplain, Marlborough College*

**The Revd Heather Cooper**

512457; heather.cooper432@btinternet.com  
*Minister, Christchurch Methodist*

**The Revd Dr David Maurice**

514119; david\_maurice2000@yahoo.com  
*Associate Minister, Marlborough Anglican Team*

**The Revd Tim Novis**

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

**Rachel Rosedale**

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

**The Revd Canon Andrew Studdert-Kennedy**

514357; andrewsk1959@btinternet.com  
*Team Rector, Marlborough Anglican Team*

---

**Andrew Trowbridge**

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

**Laura Willis**

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

**Letter to the Editor from David Chandler:**

**Sir** - I enjoyed the articles in July's edition about Marlborough's open spaces but there were some factual errors in the one on the Priory.

The gardens were not given to Kennet District Council in the 1930's. KDC didn't come into existence until 1974 and the gardens were given to Marlborough Borough Council by Thomasine Clay in the early 1970's.

The Priory and its gardens belonged to the college who wished to sell. There was a suggestion the house and gardens could be a supermarket with car parking. Mrs Thomasine Clay had a suite of rooms at the then Ailesbury Arms Hotel and a good view of the gardens and its beautiful trees. She was horrified at the thought the trees would be lost to the town and she was prepared to buy the gardens for the town providing the Borough Council acquired the building.

This happened, with the Priory building becoming council housing and the gardens open to the general public. Tony Grey opened the gardens when he was Mayor in 1973.

Thomasine would have been delighted to know that her gift gets such good use from all and in particular the young people who congregate there.

Yours faithfully  
David Chandler

# Marlborough Folk Roots :

Andrew Bumphrey

My wife, Sarah, and I have been interested in playing and listening to folk music since we were students in Bristol in the 1970s where I supplemented my grant by playing fiddle in a ceilidh band. We moved to Marlborough and had a few busy years with small children before we rekindled this interest and started going to a lot of concerts. Having become particularly keen on a popular duo ‘Show of Hands’ we heard that they encouraged individuals to promote concerts for them, taking a share of the profits rather than a guaranteed fee thereby removing any financial risk for the promoter. So in 1999 we asked them to come to play at Marlborough Town Hall. 140 people came and Marlborough Folk-Roots was born.



Since then there have been well over 150 concerts by some of the finest professional performers in that genre. Their names may not be familiar to many but perhaps some of you have heard of Fairport Convention, Ralph McTell, Tom Robinson, Seth Lakeman or Eric Bibb. Some artists, including Show of Hands, have returned many times. The popular ‘St Agnes Fountain’ show happens every year in December with its quirky and joyous take on Christmas music. Audiences have ranged in size from 25 to 550 and we have used 10 venues around the town from a friend’s sitting room to The Memorial Hall at the College. People come from near and far. One couple came from Norway especially for an album launch concert by singer songwriter Ray Cooper (who himself lives in Sweden).



We endeavour to create a relaxed and friendly atmosphere at concerts to make the experience as enjoyable as possible for both audience and performers. There is always a glass of good wine or beer available. The musicians are invariably keen to meet and talk to audience members after the show usually selling their CDs directly. We receive no subsidy but operate with the goodwill and help of our friends managing to break even over the course of the year.

More information is available on our website [www.marlboroughfolk-roots.co.uk](http://www.marlboroughfolk-roots.co.uk). The new season starts in September and will culminate in a special 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary show next May.



*Chris White and Julie Matthews performing in the Court Room - May 2018*

*An interview with Robin Pritchard, one of the organisers of Marlborough Rising, which takes place 7th-9th September.*



**How would you describe Marlborough Rising?** It's a live music event with broad musical appeal – folk, pop, blues and more - that the people of Marlborough will want to own and sponsors will be proud to support.

**What prompted you to organise it?** I was on the organising committee of the Jazz Festival and, following the announcement that it was to close, I and a number of likeminded people who all live in the town decided that was a shame and if we could do something about it then we should try and here we are! So many people tell us they really want a music festival again. It's not just us who think it's a good idea. This sort of thing is important for the health of our high streets. Putting the town on the map is good for business.



**Which venues are you using?** The festival will have four main venues: marquees in Priory Gardens and in the Castle & Ball car park, and St Mary's and St Peter's churches.

**What acts are taking part?** Headlining the festival will be **Scouting for Girls** - the popular group who caused a sensation in the town when they made a surprise appearance at the Christmas lights switch on in 2015 - and used the event as the basis for their Christmas video. Other big names include: **Joe Stilgoe**, an internationally acclaimed singer, pianist and songwriter; **Tina May**, a singer with an unerring instinct for how to treat a song and on the folk side of the music spectrum, **Turin Brakes** who are described as “a band in a league of their own - their musicianship is nothing short of mind-blowing.”

We are determined to make the festival inclusive and, thinking long term, we will be holding a Marlborough Rising Stars event for young musicians - probably on the Saturday morning in the main marquee. St John's, Marlborough College, Dauntsey's and St Francis have already expressed interest in taking part.

**Further information** on the line-up, venues and tickets will be shown on the

Marlborough Rising website. Volunteers to help with the festival - including stewarding - are asked to contact the organisers as soon as possible at:

**enquiries@marlboroughrising.com**

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## St John's Students: Where Are They Now?

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### No. 2: Lilli Loveday

I was at St. John's from 1997-2004 – starting secondary school at the same time the first Harry Potter book was released and Harry began Hogwarts! St. John's 'set me up' in ways innumerable: I studied Latin until A Level, and went on to do this at University. I joined an exchange to The Gambia, and went on to work there. But, I also gained confidence and a sense of 'belonging' from my friendships.

I met three of my (still) closest friends in Year 7. We were together in Y Tutor Group (considered the 'uncool one!'). But the four of us were less bothered about trying to 'fit in' - we had each other, spending (literally) ALL our time together! We enjoyed studying, and took extra subjects at GCSE and A Level. We'd pride ourselves on knowing the latest Harry Potter trivia, which (obviously) made us infinitely cool (or at least once everyone had caught on to the Harry Potter buzz!). And, after finishing our GCSEs, we were the first ones in our year to go to Glastonbury (definitely making us 'cool!'). We liked to think we 'pushed the boundaries'/didn't always toe-the-line. In reality, the height of our rebellion was probably creating a football field out of empty ink cartridges/paper and sticking it to a classroom table!

We formed a Debating Society and an Amnesty Society. I wrote letters during lunchtimes and debated the death penalty/fox hunting (remarkable, as I was *incredibly* shy as a child). I learnt the importance of knowing the other side of the argument. I learnt the value of being a voice for those whose voices aren't heard. One (perhaps less planned) outcome of this new-found voice was that, along with my trusty Y Tutor Group trio, we championed the 'rights' of our fellow classmates. When we were unhappy about decisions about the Common Room or that the Leavers' Ball date clashed with Glastonbury – we let senior staff know!

Raising others' voices is a huge and ever-present driving force behind what I have gone on to do in my work. I work in international development, and currently manage a nine-country research programme (Real Choices, Real Lives) for Plan International which tracks girls as they grow-up and provides evidence for policy/programming.

## *Alan is a one-time resident of Aldbourne and now lives in Harrogate*

Recently as part of my ongoing research into bells, both sacred and secular, in the Marlborough area, I chanced across an item in the PCC Minutes of St Michael's, Aldbourne for 1948. This related to an appeal for a second bell by the (then) new Secondary Modern School on Marlborough Common.

It happened that at Aldbourne there was a small bell lying on the floor of the belfry which had once hung in the former School/Chapel building in the nearby hamlet of Snap/Woodsend. The Aldbourne PCC offered to sell this bell to the new school, and appropriate steps were taken for its transfer. However, the Salisbury Diocese was not happy that the bell should be sold but rather that it should be gifted to the new school. This was accepted and the bell was duly transferred. An acknowledgement from the school is on record.

I have one or two friends who were at the school in the early 50s who can remember the bell being in use. However, it seems that the bell disappeared sometime well before the school moved to Chopping Knife Lane in 1965. I have made several enquiries as to the fate of the bell, but as yet to no avail. I am wondering if any readers of *Tower and Town* have knowledge of what happened to it.

I was a pupil at Marlborough Grammar School from 1957-64 and know the school bell was cast at Aldbourne by James Wells in 1816. I believe this bell is in safe storage.

On another matter, it is now exactly 50 years since the eight bells of St Peter's Church were sold as part of a scheme to augment St Mary's bells to eight. I have memories of ringing at St Peter's when ringing resumed briefly in the 60s; the bells were not very tuneful and the church was to be made redundant. The team was under the leadership of a College pupil, Richard Inglis. At that time St Mary's had a distinguished Curate ringer in the person of the late Roger Keeley, and of course, the band at St Mary's was under the inspirational leadership of Alf (recently retired Town Crier) Johnson. When St Peter's bells were installed in 1831, the two smallest bells were the gift of the vicar, Rev. E. Williams. In celebration of the occasion he gave a lavish Christmas Dinner for the parishioners at nearby Bridewell Street.

*If you know what happened to the Secondary Modern School's bell please contact Alan: ( Mobile – 07552442566. : popplechurch@gmail.com)*





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# NEWS from the Churches

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**Andrew Studdert-Kennedy** has been appointed as Team rector of Uxbridge in the Willesden area of the Diocese of London. His final service will be at 10.00am in St Mary's on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.



There will be an open drinks and nibbles reception to say farewell to Andrew, Annie and their family in St Mary's Church on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 6,30 to 8.00. All are welcome.

## Women's Fellowship

There are no meetings in August, and the next will be on Tuesday September 4<sup>th</sup>.

## 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.

## Filling Station

The next meeting will be on 20<sup>th</sup> September at the Community Centre.



## Get There! Messy Holiday Club

After last year's success, this summer will see a new instalment of Get There! Holiday Club. It will take place at the Marlburian Centre and the College Playing Fields from Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> August to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> August 9.30 – 1pm.

As always, we cannot organise such an event without the support of volunteers. If you have a couple of hours to spare, and would like to do something worthwhile and fun, please sign up at the back of St Mary's or St George's Church.

There is a variety of ways you can help, such as:

- Making and/or serving refreshments

- Helping to supervise craft activities such as T-shirt making and home-made bird boxes

- Or outdoor activities such as bouncy castle or water slide

- Helping by reading or acting out a story

- Being involved in the music group on Friday afternoon.

If you are able to help with any of these, or have questions or ideas for

activities, please contact Janneke or sign up. There will be a volunteers' briefing on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> August at 5pm in St Mary's Church.

### Teddy Prayers + Picnic

A special service for under fives and their carers followed by tea and cake at St George's Church, Preshute every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month starting at 2.00pm (approx.) For more information please contact: [lydia.bauer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lydia.bauer@hotmail.co.uk) or [susanelks@rocketmail.com](mailto:susanelks@rocketmail.com) We meet this month on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

### Summer activities and Free Friday lunches

For families with children on free school meals, there are substantial additional costs during the school holidays. During August St Mary's Church and Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group (MAPAG) would like to support families by offering free packed lunches on Fridays.

For these families we are also organising a summer outing to the Cotswold Wildlife Park on 16<sup>th</sup> August, and subsidising places for Activate at Marlborough Leisure Centre.

### Wiltshire Historic Churches Ride & Stride 2018

takes place on Saturday 8th September, 10am-6pm. Please support the work of the Trust by contributing to this sponsored fundraising event through participation on foot, on a bicycle, on a horse or any other form of transport. Great fundraiser, as the money raised by participants is divided, between their own church and the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust. For more information, please visit: [www.wiltshirehistoricchurchestrust.org.uk](http://www.wiltshirehistoricchurchestrust.org.uk) or contact Charles Graham: [ctg100@hotmail.com](mailto:ctg100@hotmail.com)

### Devotion Youth Project

Devotion will be having a break over August, because we don't have enough volunteers to run the sessions! If **devotion** you would like to find out how you can help by volunteering, please contact Janneke Blokland: [jblokland@gmail.com](mailto:jblokland@gmail.com)

### Mustard Seed Book Group

The next meeting is on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September, 7.30pm at Mustard Seed when we will be talking about **Joyce Meyer's** book **"Seize the Day - Living on purpose and making every day count"**



# A High Street for 21<sup>st</sup> Century? Sarah Bumphrey

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I found Peter Noble’s article in the June edition entitled *The King John Myth* very thought-provoking. He argued that the Mop Fairs should be moved to the Common to allow the look of the High Street to be improved. I had never stopped to think how the Mops affect the High Street for the rest of the year, engendering “a barren car park with no fixtures”. More permanent features (trees? fountains? a bandstand?) could be provided if there were no longer the need for a clear space for the Mops.

I usually like to keep traditions going and I have some fondness for the Mops. When my children were young we used to visit them in the afternoon and enjoy the children’s rides. I also love the quiet of the High Street just after the road has been closed and just before the rides are erected. All you can hear are what I imagine to be the sounds of previous centuries – footsteps and voices.

However, for the health of our community I feel we need to think carefully about what we want our High Street to be like. It seems busy and thriving but there are no guarantees. High Streets are said to be in crisis as retailers suffer “a perfect storm of pressures”: the shift to online shopping (with its wide choice, convenience and ease of price comparison) is a major influence in this decline. Another factor is changing tastes; people no longer want large and impersonal stores which were a major cause of the collapse of ToysRUs – they want a better shopping experience which specialist shops with welcoming and knowledgeable staff can provide.

Marlborough High Street needs to become an even more inviting place to meet, visit and shop in. There has been a suggestion that the speed limit could be reduced to 20 miles per hour. I would suggest we go one step further as they do in Germany. Many German towns have zones denoted by this sign where children (and adults) are allowed to walk, and even play, in the road and anything on wheels (cars, bikes, motorbikes) must travel at a walking pace.



I experienced this on my recent holiday to Germany and it seemed to work well: pedestrians are safe and wheeled traffic, necessary to accommodate visitors, is not excluded. I believe this (plus the beautification which could take place if the Mops were moved) would give us a High Street for a

prosperous and thriving community. What do you think?

# Tower and Town staff

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**Chairman** Hugh de Saram chairman@towerandtown.org.uk 516830  
18 Kelham Gardens SN8 1PW

**Vice Chairman** Andrew Unwin operations@towerandtown.org.uk  
**Operations** Sarsen House, The Street, All Cannings, Devizes, SN10 3PA  
01380 860120

**Advertising** Andrew Unwin advertising@towerandtown.org.uk

**Distribution** Sue Tulloh distribution@towerandtown.org.uk 288912

**Subscriptions** Peter Astle 4 Laurel Drive, SN8 2SH 515395

**Treasurer** Peter Astle treasurer@towerandtown.org.uk 515395

## Production Teams

### *September*

Editor Nick Maurice sep.editor@towerandtown.org.uk 512524

Compiler Peter Noble sep.compiler@towerandtown.org.uk 519034

### *October*

Editor David Du Croz oct.editor@towerandtown.org.uk 511725

Compiler Hugh de Saram oct.compiler@towerandtown.org.uk 516830

## Every Month

*What's On* Karen Osborne whats.on@towerandtown.org.uk 514364

*News from the Churches* Alison Selby church.news@towerandtown.org.uk 511128  
Crossmead, Kingsbury St, SN8 1HU

*Family News* Audrey Peck family.news@towerandtown.org.uk 289065  
7 Castle Court, Marlborough SN8 1XG

**Website, online edition** www.towerandtown.org.uk; info@towerandtown.org.uk

**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 September issue by 14th August please.

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