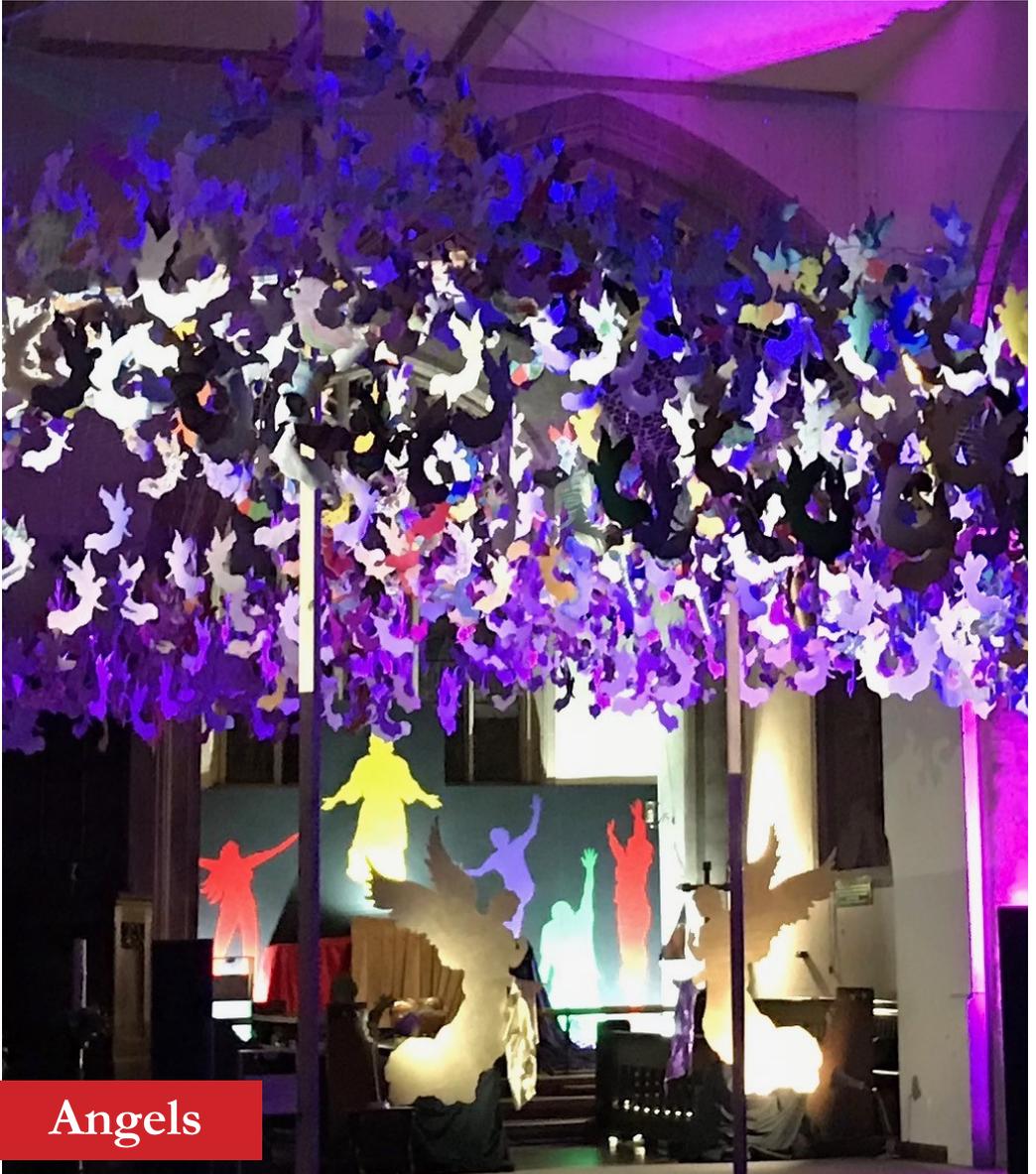


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# TOWER AND TOWN

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Angels

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FEBRUARY 2021 50P

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# TOWER<sup>AND</sup>TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

NUMBER 711 FEBRUARY 2021



## Angels in Marlborough

Few people have ever claimed to have seen an angel: Abraham entertained three, though they were in disguise, and Jacob wrestled with one. But angels have figured in our culture in many well-known and well-loved contexts, especially at Christmas time, in song and poetry, and indeed whenever we need to identify that personal connection between the divine world beyond and our lives here. They are active intermediaries; they are 'messengers' in Greek; and they bring to us something brilliantly bright, inspiring and divine.

In Marlborough, the College Chapel is dedicated to St Michael and All Angels and has twelve exceptional paintings illustrating angelic interventions in the Bible. Vincent and Helen Stokes created a magnificent and moving display of hundreds of home-made angels in St Mary's for Christmas and the New Year, as you see on the front cover of this edition and as Helen describes inside. Their impact, especially for our stricken times, was uplifting.

An extended meaning of 'angel' is someone who does something for someone else, probably unexpectedly and almost certainly selflessly: 'You are an absolute angel,' you hear. Several charitable organizations have contributed to this edition and we can focus on what they do to help, inspire and lighten people's lives.

We pay a particular tribute to Dr Nick Maurice for what he has contributed over so many years to this Church and Community magazine. We are delighted to have squeezed one last article out of him as he retires from Tower and Town, and know that he will continue elsewhere to share his concern with us for a better world and urge our support.

**John Osborne, Editor**

Cover photo: Vincent Stokes

Dear Lord, at this difficult time  
We look regularly for your sign  
Suggesting what we are able to do  
To get Covid cases fewer and few.  
Things are hard, as I speak,  
So much has happened in the last week,  
Covid seems to be controlling US  
Like the driver of a great big bus.  
The infection rate is so very high  
Of this nobody can deny,  
We have all been given our own tier  
And serious infection is getting very near.  
The tier we are in is number three  
It's very restricting, we all agree,  
Bars and restaurants have had to close  
And we are all having lots of lows.  
I can meet with one daughter but that is all  
Other friends and family cannot call,  
Our groceries are delivered, if they can,  
But on others calling there is a ban.  
Many people are seriously ill  
And many others Covid will kill,  
It's a desperate situation for us all  
Hoping that Covid will not call.  
Dear Lord, we are down on our knees!  
Can you help us, PLEASE,  
To make better those who are ill  
And stop Covid trying to kill.  
Vaccination is coming soon  
And we will all then sing a grateful tune,  
Perhaps good things will follow on.  
The days of so much travel may be gone,  
Helping friends and neighbours will be the norm  
Keeping us all safe from any harm.  
Please Lord, let this time soon come  
And allow us again to have some fun.

We all know that 2020 was a year like no other; many of us have had to learn new skills and work creatively within compromise. Christmas celebrations? A meaningful experience of Christmas within the limitations of the pandemic?

How could St Mary's Church celebrate with the community at a time when social interaction is the very thing COVID has denied us?

A heavenly whisper planted a seed that grew into a vision that blossomed into an extraordinary and uplifting experience involving hundreds of Marlborough folk of all ages.

A Thousand Christmas Angels was born.

A paper angel, based upon a stained glass window in the church, was created and made available for decoration using: paint; collage; words; glitter; prayers .....

Schools took part, pre-schools, the elderly and housebound, church members and many, many more.

Decorated angel shapes were collected, threaded and suspended across the nave of the church in a glorious heavenly throng! This became the angelic and star-lit centrepiece of a journey through the stripped-out church telling the Christmas story. Angels floated aloft in their hundreds. Baby Jesus lay in a manger that was as simple and sparse as on the first Christmas Day, but surrounded by colour, richness and the explosive worship of life-size painted figures, bursting with joy! *"The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light!"* Christ is born!

Beautiful lighting and a specially created soundtrack were woven through the space to create an immersive experience; some visitors were brought to tears.

So many people made angels, hung angels; so many helped bend hooks or thread or paint or cut out figures or nailed up boards or were stewards .....

And it was the very participation of individuals that added up to so much, much, more.

We weren't certain that we would get a thousand angels. We had close to two thousand. We hoped that people would visit. There were more than 500 visitors in the first week alone.

One little girl was so enthralled that she made a Christmas card to tell the church that "I love your thing." Some more of the many responses: "This is the most wonderful thing I have seen in a church" .....

"Speechless - this is truly amazing" .....

"Very much needed bit of connection with the good side of life" .....

"Well done to our community" .....

"What a beautiful idea in troubled times – such a feeling of peace, serenity and hope" .....

# The Bereavement Journey

---

Benjamin Franklin famously wrote that there is nothing certain in this world except death and taxes.

There are over 600,000 recorded deaths each year in the UK, and for each death it is estimated that up to twelve people are significantly impacted. It's not just the loss of a loved one that can trigger the grief process. Redundancy, divorce, and any other significant loss can all lead to the emotions that we understand to constitute grieving.

There have been numerous theories and studies around grief, but most experts accept that there are a number of stages through which bereaved people travel during their bereavement, including shock, disbelief, anger, anxiety, and some or all are likely to be experienced. The way people move through these stages varies immensely, and it is certainly not a straight line where we move methodically from one stage to the next.

One of the most important factors in helping people to work through their grief is the support of other people. Having friends and relatives who are prepared to listen, as we share our stories and feelings, is a crucial part of the healing process.

And *The Bereavement Journey* can also be a huge help. This is a 5-session course exploring what it's like to be bereaved, and is an easily accessible way to explore our personal grief. Each session covers a different aspect of bereavement and enables participants to explore their own thoughts and feelings and to hear from others who are going through the same thing. There is also an optional 6<sup>th</sup> session which looks at faith questions relating to loss.

St Mary's Church in Marlborough ran its first course just before Christmas. The sessions were held over ZOOM, and the feedback has been really positive. It is planned to run further courses this year, so if you have experienced a loss and would like to explore your thoughts and feelings with others, contact Louise Seddon ([the\\_seddons@btopenworld.co](mailto:the_seddons@btopenworld.co) or 07917 248339) or Mark Whitehead.

Comments from those who attended:

“It was interesting to hear the stories from other members of the group.”

“The pre-recorded talks were excellent.”

“It was beneficial in addressing how someone's death can affect people close to them, whether physically, mentally or practically, for example in changes to the roles we play.”



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Volunteers are a vital part of KFR.

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At Emmanuel Church, we have been studying the story of Joseph in the Bible. In the rollercoaster of life, Joseph's story teaches us to live by faith and not by sight.

In Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical, the narrator sings to Joseph, "I've read the book and you come out on top."

We have read the book. We know that God 'was with Joseph' and 'showed him kindness'. We know how the story ends. But, as Joseph stares through the window of his Egyptian jail, imprisoned for a crime he did not commit, Joseph does not know that. He cannot see God. As the butler and the baker (all we need now is the candlestick maker!) tell Joseph their dreams, we know this is God's providence: that the butler is Joseph's get-out-of-jail-free card. But Joseph does not know that. All Joseph knows is that, at the end of that chapter, the butler "did not remember Joseph; he forgot him".

Yet, Joseph serves God, even when he cannot see him. That is why his behaviour is consistent, whoever his earthly master is. In jail, Joseph says to the butler and the baker, "Don't interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams."

Joseph serves God in his work. He is not doing anything religious; he does not even have a proper job; he is in prison and yet he serves God in his work. And Joseph serves God in his words. Whether he is bringing good news to the butler or bad news to the baker (he does not miss out the hard bits), Joseph serves God in his words.

Maybe we are weeping for loved ones, weary of COVID-19 and its consequences or worried about work or studies. Like Joseph, we cannot see what God is up to. But let us be encouraged. To live for God, when we cannot see him is the life of faith. "Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1).

Maybe it feels like we are running a cross-country race in deep fog: we cannot see the sun. But let us fix our eyes on someone in front who's run our path already: "Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2).

**Reuban Mann, Minister  
Emmanuel Marlborough Church**

I have been involved in Tower and Town as an editor and contributor since 1977 and now as I stand down I have an opportunity to *Au Revoir* in two senses: 'Farewell' and 'Look Back'.

As a hoarder, I have each month's copy of T&T dating back to 1977 and reading again articles from the past it has been wonderful: 'bringing back to life' old friends, noting the changes in the themes and reflecting on the important role that the magazine has played. People have contributed widely and diversely - their prayers, thoughts, activities, charitable work - and shared them with subscribers reading from the perspective of both the 'Tower' and the 'Town'.

I 'revoir' the days when the magazine's editor was our Rector, Wilfred Down, and distribution was the responsibility of the wonderful Désirée Stevens, living on The Green.

My December 1977 edition includes an editorial by the Catholic Priest, Father Daley, who reflects "Our Lord himself never looked back. He looked forward and promised better times ahead. His story about the evil servant who, in his master's absence tyrannised over his fellow servants, saying 'My Lord delayeth his coming', could fit our own times. Ours is a very disturbed world, still held captive by evil servants. No matter, the Lord will come again and make all things new".

Wilfred Down writes brilliantly on the topic of racism and concludes by writing "For us men and for our salvation he came...and became man" not white or black, but simply man, so we might learn to trust each other (i.e. drive out our fears) and love each other. And it is quite clear what will happen if we do not – we shall have to be kept apart for always, the deepest insult to human beings and to God'.

I am tempted to write *Plus ça change...*, but perhaps it best not to enter into a political debate!

From over forty years of editions of Tower and Town it is clear that the emphasis of the contributions has moved considerably from 'Tower' to 'Town', from sacred to secular. In those early years the majority of the articles and the news came from the Churches and their work, with reports from St George's, Preshute (Rev Barney Hopkinson), St Thomas More's (Father Fleury), St Mary's (Canon Wilfred Down), Marlborough College (Rev Roger Marsh) and the Society of Friends (Winifred Uttley).

Is it time now, perhaps as an impact of the pandemic, for the editorial team to reflect on what the balance of the articles in Tower and Town should be?

# Action Through Enterprise

---

Action Through Enterprise (ATE) was founded in 2012 by Sarah Gardner from Ramsbury.

Sarah had been introduced to the world of international development while a student at Oxford Brookes University when she travelled to Marlborough's linked community of Gunjur in The Gambia. This encouraged her to apply to VSO who sent her to train teachers in rural Lawra, Northern Ghana.

Here she recognised that she was living in an extremely poor community where many people lived without access to clean water, electricity, education, etc. This provoked her into action.

Working with Ghanaian colleagues she set up ATE - ateghana.org - registered the organisation as a UK charity, based in Ramsbury, and developed a strategy for development in the Lawra District.

**BizATE** works with a wide range of small businesses, from seamstresses, to electricians and carpenters. Each small business owner is paired with an ATE mentor who provides essential business advice.

**EducATE** recognised that attendance in Lawra schools was extremely low, not least as children were spending so much time working on food production, farming, catapulting wild animals, climbing trees, etc. ATE now provides a school feeding programme for over a thousand children in seven schools, thus ensuring that children receive education and incidentally providing employment for many women producing the meals.

**SNAP** (Special Needs Awareness Programme) improves the lives of families with children with disabilities. Through raising awareness, providing basic health-care and education, they work to reduce stigma, increase access to services and enable disabled children to be included and to contribute to their community.

The latest concert of classical music organized by Nick Maurice in St Peter's Church raised £589 for ATE.

*For further information and support for ATE please contact sarahgghana@gmail.com or phone her on 07909 091920*

# The Kempson Rosedale Enterprise Trust

---

Older readers will remember ‘G’ Kempson, a remarkable Marlborough citizen and Mayor, scholar, teacher and College housemaster, governor of the then Marlborough Grammar School, and member of two pre-war Everest expeditions. He inspired many people of all ages with his lively enthusiasm for natural and local history and mountaineering: two of the members of the successful Everest team in 1953 were his pupils. When he died in 1987, the Kempson Enterprise Trust was established in his memory and honour, with the generosity of the many he had inspired, to encourage sixth-formers at both Marlborough schools to undertake a wide range of activities which could enlarge and enrich their lives.

Since 1989 the Trust has made grants to young people every year, except 2020: crewing on tall ships; first ascents in the mountains of Kazakhstan; teaching posts in Africa, South America and India; diving in the Red Sea; helping on an archaeological dig; and even a parachute jump. So many lives enriched.

By 2009 it was clear to the Trustees that with a declining income due to the financial crisis, lower interest rates and fewer friends who remembered ‘G’, we could only be able to make worthwhile grants for a few more years. Then in the final days of 2009 Rupert Rosedale was killed in an avalanche on the wintery slopes of Ben Nevis. Son of a local GP and a St John’s pupil, Rupert was well on his way to a career as mountain guide and had spent a decade as head of Outdoor Activities at the College. Like ‘G’, his life and work crossed the divide between the Marlborough schools and he inspired generations of young people; among many achievements, he led expeditions to wild and challenging mountainous places around the world and restarted the College’s participation in the Devizes to Westminster canoe race each Easter. As a result of the generous donations given in his memory the Trust has been renamed, strengthened and able to continue the work of helping young people to expand their horizons and explore the world.

For a good many years now, the Trust has established an Autumn lecture. This last year Vanessa Folkerts, the youngest European to climb Everest, gave a talk (by Zoom from San Francisco) about her ascent. The talks are partly to fundraise, but more to show our fellow-men and -children that the world is diverse and rich and threatened. At a time of petty divisions and narrow nationalisms this may be more important than we can imagine.

*The Trust has an excellent website: [www.kretrust.com](http://www.kretrust.com). Please support us to continue this contribution to a saner world. Contributions may be made via the website or by cheque to the Treasurer, KRET, 8 Southview Place, Marlborough SN8 1DD*



On the Everest Icefall. Photos kindly supplied by Dr Barney Rosedale



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**Speaker: Charlotte Hitchmough, Action for the River Kennet (ARK)**



**Wednesday, 3rd February 2021 at 7.30pm**

The Talk and Presentation will follow our normal but brief W.I. meeting. It will be a Zoom Virtual Meeting, and for this purpose, please contact our President, Vicky Sullivan, to register your attendance and to receive the necessary joining invitation which will be emailed to participants prior to the event:-

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**Please register your attendance by**

**Monday 1st February 2021.**

Guests are most welcome to join us. A voluntary donation of £4 is welcome from guests and preferably to be paid online to us or by a cheque payable to Marlborough W.I.

In *Madama Butterfly* the heroine exclaims: “They say that overseas, if it falls into the hands of man, a butterfly is stuck through with a pin and fixed to a board!” This prophetic statement about her ultimate destiny is followed by the longest love duet in all of Puccini’s operas.

I can remember from my school days being shown trays of butterflies in the Biology Lab: now, in this conservation-minded era, we shudder at the thought. Putting my head out of the train window in the 1950’s I would see clouds of butterflies along the sidings: *Whites*, *Ringlets*, *Tortoisesbells* and *Hedge Browns* galore. Sadly, it has been a story of declining numbers, a staggering  $\frac{3}{4}$ ’s reduction in the last 50 years.

There are about 58 species of butterfly on the U.K. list of which some 45 are recorded annually in Wiltshire, making it a good county for this varied and colourful insect. In the winter months we sometimes find a motionless *Peacock* or Small *Tortoiseshell* on a window-sill or an inside wall. The natural instinct is to open the window and let it out, but it isn’t the right thing to do: put it in a cardboard box, place it in a dark corner of your garage and let it come to life in the spring.

In those cool, sunny days in March and April the sight of the first *Brimstone*, a dainty *Orange Tips* or a motionless *Red Admiral* on a leaf gladdens the heart. We are lucky in Wiltshire to have several butterfly hotspots: Morgan’s Hill Nature Reserve, the Calstone and Cherhill Downs, Ravensroost Wood and the Pewsey Downs.

Despite the statement by Butterfly Conservation that the overall picture was poor in 2020, I was out in the field more than usual between lockdowns and my butterfly list was good: *Holly Blues* in the garden, *Small Blues*, *Dingy Skipper*, *Dark Green Fritillaries*, the beautiful *Adonis Blue* and many *Marbled Whites* on the downs and *Small Heaths*, *Ringlets*, *Gatekeepers* and *Green-veined Whites* in my local fields. Within a mile of Marlborough there were records of *Marsh Fritillaries* and even of *Duke of Burgundy*, a very special species which lepidopterists reverently call ‘The Duke’

In Savernake Forest in late July the search was on for the elusive *Purple Emperor*. I am told that some fanatics even smear one landmark with rotting fruit and worse things, to attract the beautiful males to feed there. I took a walk down one ride in August in the hope of seeing one. “You’ve just missed a male” a couple told me, “it perched on a metal gatepost back there... a few minutes ago!”

Butterflies are on the wing so briefly and precariously in our beautiful county we should cherish them and seek to support their continued survival.

# An 'Ageing' Economy!

Peter Noble

The suffix '-age' can be attached to many words and one of its many meanings is a tax or the right to levy a tax.

With our national finances taking a dive perhaps Mr Sunak might be considering adopting some of the medieval tolls and taxes that would hit market towns like Marlborough. Consider being a medieval trader in Marlborough: to bring goods to sell in town transport is needed for which one could pay taxes of 'cartage' if hiring or 'carriage' if you own the vehicle. To traverse what are now the A4 or A346 through the forest land of Savernake you would pay 'cheminage' to Lord Cardigan's ancestors, or if approaching from Pewsey there might be 'peage' for permission to pass through Oare, or 'pedage' to be given care and safe conduct along the highway.

Reaching Marlborough you could pay 'pontage' for crossing the bridge, 'murage' for maintaining the town or castle walls and 'pavage' for street maintenance. And now to actually selling your goods: 'stallage' for permission to erect a stall or shop, 'pickage' for clearing the piece of ground where you want to set it up, 'coverage' for actually using a stall, 'pesage' for your goods being formally weighed, followed by the 'lastage' tax on goods actually sold. A 'last' was a bulk measure equal to 12 sacks of wool or about 2.28 tons of grain, and the measure was also applied to goods in a ship's hold - the same concept as modern 'tonnage'. Any unprofitable cargo, ie. that loaded merely to keep the ship stable, would not be taxable and became known as 'ballast' - a derivative of 'bar last' (old Swedish: a bare load). However, back in Marlborough, if 'lastage' doesn't apply ie, you aren't selling bulk commodities, you would definitely be 'tithed' one tenth of your income or produce.

Let's just hope Mr Sunak has not read medieval history. However, on consideration, we already have *road fund tax* (cheminage), *tax on fuel* (carriage), *national insurance* (pedage), *parking charges* (pavage), *business rates* for shops and stalls (stallage), *rents* (coverage), *council tax* (peage, pontage and murage), *VAT* (lastage) and *income tax* (tithes) so I guess not much has changed.



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Three very different books this month, each in their own way addressing how we think, process and use information, and how we form opinions and make decisions.

George Saunders won the Man Booker prize for *Lincoln in the Bardo*. He's also a teacher of creative writing at Syracuse University, NY, and in *A Swim in a Pond in the Rain* he has created a masterclass in reading. Developing the notes from his classes on the Russian short story, he accompanies us through the reading of stories by Chekhov, Tolstoy, Gogol and Turgenev, asking 'what do you think about the characters and situations, and why? What do you know so far? What more do you know now? Has your opinion changed? Why? How has the writer created or built on, or subverted your expectations?' It's a painstaking look at how stories are built and how we read them, written in a relaxed chatty style which I can see some people might find a tad irritating, but (I know) who am I to talk? I'd recommend this to reading groups who might want to make their discussions a bit more formal and structured without going into academic critical theory (which is incompatible with wine and crisps in my experience), and of course to anyone who hasn't read the classic Russian writers.

David Omand's *How Spies Think* also asks 'what do we know, and how, and is it what we expected?'. The former director of GCHQ lays out in ten lessons the processes that analysts go through in evaluating information and assessing threats. Omand's book shows how to recognise our own knee-jerk reactions and gauge their validity and credibility. We could all usefully learn how to identify group-think, conspiracies, agendas and misinformation, even those of us not responsible for national security.

*November Road* by Lou Berney is about the aftermath of the Kennedy assassination, based on the theory that it was organised by the Mafia. The main protagonist, an amoral operative for a mob boss, realises that he knows too much, and will almost certainly be 'eliminated' before the FBI catch up with him. He takes to the road, using all his experience, contacts and knowledge to anticipate and double-bluff the hitman sent after him, and takes up with a woman who has left her alcoholic husband, reasoning that her presence will provide a disguise to buy him time. It's a sweetly tentative love story, a road novel and a relentless and twisty thriller.

# Christopher Rogers at Great Chalfield

---

South west of Melksham, in the heart of the countryside is the village of Broughton Gifford from where a discreet signpost takes you down a narrow tree lined lane to Great Chalfield Manor. Warm honey-coloured Box stone has been used to create a confection of irregular gables, a rich variety of windows dominated by a massive thrusting chimney stack; a late medieval show house.

The house was built by a wealthy lawyer, Thomas Tropnell. Born at the beginning of the 15th century Tropnell was agent and lawyer to the Hungerford family, of an ancient lineage and who were seated at Farleigh Hungerford a little to the west. Thanks to Hungerford patronage he became MP for Great Bedwin (Bedwyn today) and then Bath. Very wisely he hedged his bets in the Wars of the Roses and, as the great families fought themselves into extinction or poverty, Tropnell picked up the bits, gradually building up a sizeable property. Never one to lose an opportunity he was described at the time as a 'perilous covetouse man'. Indeed, discovered last century as some panelling was removed in the dining room, there is a contemporary wall painting of a well-dressed corpulent man clutching a money bag. Is this Tropnell? Might it be a depiction of avarice? Perhaps there is little to distinguish between the two.

The house itself was finally completed about 1480, a remarkably extravagant statement at a time of political turmoil. As you walk across the moat into the outer courtyard the full splendour of the house greets you. In the centre is the elevated steeply-pitched roof of the great hall. An enormous chimney stack betrays the existence of a massive hall fireplace. On either end are two massive gables in each of which is a huge bay, or oriel, window (*see photo*), indicating that the rooms inside are of great importance. Perched on the summit of each gable is statue or finial, one of which has a carved griffin supporting the Tropnell coat of arms, while others include knights in armour, not that Tropnell could boast any chivalric heritage! Sadly, after his death the house fell on hard times. The estate was divided up; it endured a brief siege by Royalist troops in 1645 and having gone through a series of owners, the house was tenanted and in the 1850's cruelly vandalised. The south wing was demolished; the east wing was allowed to collapse (except for the oriel window which was held up with wooden beams), while the great hall was crudely divided horizontally to create a mezzanine floor. Fortunately the 19th artist John Buckler was commissioned to paint a series of six watercolours of the house as it was in 1823 (*see opposite*) and in 1836 Thomas Larkins Walker surveyed the house just before it was 'modernized'

Towards the end of the 19th century the house was purchased by the Fuller

family. George Fuller lived at Neston Park and he gave the crumbling property to Robert, his fourth son. The last decade of the 19th century saw the revival of interest in British architectural heritage and craftsmanship. This was the age of the Arts and Crafts Movement. Robert Fuller was very aware of his heritage and commissioned Sir Harold Brakespear to undertake a full restoration (and rebuilding in the case of the east front) of the house in 1906. Using fragments of the original structure where possible and with the use of Walker's drawing he lovingly restored the house to its original form. A century on, it is very difficult to distinguish between the new and the old work. The Solar, with its spectacular 'oriel' window and the Great Hall, complete with a recarved screen are, to my mind, the highpoints. So, the spirit of Tropnell lives on. His arms appear with great regularity as does his motto *Le jong tyra belement* or *The yoke draws well*. It certainly had drawn very well for Thomas!



**Alan Rix** spent his school years and early working life in the London area. He moved to Marlborough in 1956 to take responsibility for running the two hospitals and all the clinics and health centres in the Marlborough area. Later on, the hospitals at Pewsey, Burderop and North View, Purton came under his charge as well.

It was at Savernake Hospital that he met his wife, Deirdre, a nurse, whom he married in 1957. Mr Rix's love for the Marlborough hospitals led to him writing a booklet about their history in 1966 for Savernake's centenary.

After retiring in 1982, he served for eight years as the steward in charge of the Duchess of Somerset's Hospital, the retirement home at Froxfield.

He was a lifelong sports and keep-fit enthusiast. An introduction to refereeing whilst on military service in Egypt (1946-48) developed into a lasting interest. He officiated at matches, including major league games, in London and the South. His daughter, Alison Marsh, said her father loved to recall that he once off-sided the late and great player Jimmy Greaves when he was running the line for a Spurs match!

Alan was a scout leader. He played cricket for the town CC. In retirement he maintained his physical fitness by working out regularly at Marlborough Leisure Centre and taking a daily swim. He and Deirdre enjoyed participating in walking groups.

Other interests included being secretary of Marlborough Deanery Church Synod, supporting the Friends of the Marlborough Hospitals and attending music appreciation and discussion groups at Marlborough U3A. He was a member of Marlborough Rotary Club for many years and its president in 1974-75. He was also a life member and former chairman of Probus.

In 2016, Alan went to live at Highfield where Deirdre had been a lay pastor in former years. She and Alan had rooms there opposite each other. Everyone loved his hearty, infectious laugh and he enjoyed walking around the gardens, observing the bird life. He appreciated the food and being able to have ice-cream after every meal (except breakfast). In fact, he ate a hearty breakfast of bacon, eggs and toast every day until shortly before he died.

Friends and family celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary at Highfield. After lunch at the golf club, they went back to Highfield where they had been made a wonderful cake and fizz. Instead of gifts, donations to the home were requested and Alison bought a bird-feeding station for everyone to enjoy.

Younger daughter Sarah died tragically in 2008 when she was struck by a car on a

zebra crossing close to their home. Alan is survived by elder daughter Alison, grandchildren Tamara, Yousif and Hannah and great grandchildren Max, Lily and Taalia.

**Helen Frances McKim** passed away peacefully on 19th October aged 85 after a short illness. She lived in Marlborough for most of her adult life, moving here with Frank, her husband, in 1957.

She was born in Eltham in London in 1935, the youngest of four children. She trained as a physiotherapist at Middlesex Hospital and got a job at the Children's Hospital by the Marlborough Golf Course when coming to the town. Later, she became the physiotherapist at Savernake Hospital. It was difficult to walk down the High Street with Helen without bumping into several ex-patients who would thank her for fixing their back, or their knee or their shoulder!



Frank was a teacher, then head of physics and then housemaster of Barton Hill at Marlborough College. As a housemaster's wife she was determined not to be a disciplinarian and instead provided emotional support, Sunday roasts and chat for the boys and girls of the boarding house.

A house in Pembrokeshire became the family's escape from work and provided many holidays of sea swimming, coast walking and sailing. Helen particularly loved sailing and enjoyed holidays with friends exploring the Scillies and northern France well into her sixties. She was also active with the local Oxfam fund-raising committee and was part of many successful antique fairs.

Following retirement, Helen volunteered with Victim Support and Link and continued to help people in the community as well as travelling to her beloved Greek islands.

A much-loved mother, grandmother and friend she will be remembered fondly and missed greatly.

**Roger Ambrose** moved to Marlborough with his family in 1984 when he transferred to the Nat West Bank. He took early retirement in 1992 and volunteered locally as a parent governor at S Peter's. He was chairman of Crossroads and was involved in and supported the Prospect Hospice, the Brandt Group, Victim Support, Talking Newspapers and Kennet Valley National Trust.

Roger was a Methodist local preacher and loved discussion groups. He was a wonderful caring husband to Ann, father to Mark and Ruth and a grandfather to Levi. Roger was much loved and will be greatly missed by family and friends.

With no exhibitions taking place currently, I decided to turn my attention to a different passion of mine, music. It's hard to believe that this once-upon-a-time shy little girl is now the first to hit the dance floor at any party (I actually cannot wait to put my glad rags on and boogie again.)

Music is a tonic. It's a stimulus. It's a feeling, it's a memory, it's a fully immersive pleasurable sensation that you simply cannot ignore. Listening to music releases endorphins in the brain. I found an interesting article on the NHS website that had followed up a story published by The Guardian in 2011 about why music makes us feel good. It said, 'Scientists have found that our brains release the "rewards chemical" dopamine in response to hearing music we like, similar to the brain's response to delicious food or drugs such as cocaine.' (To read the full article online from 2011, search for 'Music that makes you feel good NHS'.)

Even as I write this, I am listening to the deep, velvety soulful sound of the unmistakably marvellous Marvin Gaye.

Music has always been popular in my family. My Nanna taught me the piano. The memory I have of sitting next to her in the sitting room while I pressed a random selection of keys is very special. It is still wonderful to be able to sit down, practice and play some old favourites following many years of after school lessons. I loved it then, and I love it now. My earliest memory of hearing recorded music was when my dad put on a CD of female saxophonists playing *In the Mood*. Pure magic.

Since those early days, music has been a journey of discovery. Incidentally, when I was 16 and worked in the village pub with no phone signal, I would wait in the car park and could hear my mum approaching because *Born to Run* would be blaring out of the windows at 10000000(...) decibels. I hope I also turn out to be a rock chick! I'm always listening to music, and or dancing around the house generally being a pain to anyone who's actually trying to do anything sensible like WORK.

Music is so freely available (as in remotely accessible rather than actually being free, generally speaking) these days, that I am adding to my online playlists all the time. If I had to pick a favourite genre of popular music, hmm, well, Motown and anything from the 40s through the 80s are what I have on repeat. I get as much pleasure from listening to Benny Goodman as I do the Stones or Earth, Wind & Fire or Donna Summer. Modern music of the last twenty years is also exciting, new and challenging. There are so many wonderful, innovative artists emerging onto the scene that it's great being able to discover them so quickly and easily.

Modern music aside, some of the most beautiful compositions I've ever heard

are from a completely different canon. Classical and orchestral music, as well as musicals and soundtrack pieces are often sublime, and I listen to pieces from across all these genres daily. It would be impossible to pick a favourite, there are too many to choose from. Some films, for example *Dirty Dancing*, weren't considered a hit when released in 1987 but quickly became a box office sensation, largely due to its insatiable soundtrack (and that lift, of course). But I will ask this of you dear reader, are you familiar with the work of Hans Zimmer? If not, you must change this immediately! Any one of his film scores will do, but don't leave *Pirates of the Caribbean* till last. You're welcome and thank you.

Right, time for me to delve into more spine tingling sensations. I hope you enjoy listening to whatever makes you happy, sad, dance, smile, cry, sing-along, turn-up or twist and shout.

## Samaritans turning the Blues into Brews

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Swindon & District Samaritans are encouraging people to beat the winter blues and COVID by staying connected with a virtual warming cuppa and a chat over the long cold months for Brew Monday.

Brew Monday kicked off on Monday 18 January 2021: the third Monday in January is typically known as “Blue Monday” for being the most difficult day of the year. Samaritans are turning the blues to brews by encouraging friends, family and workmates to reach out to someone for a virtual cuppa and a chat as well as raising vital funds for Swindon & District Samaritans. Now, more than ever, sharing a cuppa is more than a drink – it's about reaching out, checking in and staying connected.

If you need to know more, please go to: fundraiserswindonsamaritans@btconnect.com If you brew up to chase those blues away and can support Swindon & District Samaritans, please text to donate.

To donate £5, text BREWMONDAY 5 to 70490. Texts cost £5 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £5 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text BREWMONDAYNOINFO 5 to 70490.

*Samaritans are always here every hour of every day of the year. Talk to us any time you like, in your own way and off the record about whatever's getting to you:*

T: 116 123 – calls are free

E: [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)



# Orange and Pomegranate Cake Karen Osborne

---

The market were selling 3 pomegranates for £1 and I couldn't resist a bargain.

50 grams breadcrumbs and polenta combined  
100 grams ground almonds  
175 grams dark brown sugar  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
small handful dried orange peel (or peel from 1 orange)  
215 ml sunflower seed oil  
4 lightly beaten eggs  
seeds from half a pomegranate

Mix together all ingredients (apart from the pomegranate seeds) in a bowl and pour into a well-greased 8-inch springform cake tin. Put into a cold oven and set to 190 °C. Bake for 45-50 mins (check after 25 mins and, if cake already browned on top, place some paper over top). Pierce with skewer and, if it comes out clean, remove from oven. For the Syrup:

Juice of 2 satsumas  
Half cup of pomegranate juice  
1 tablespoon pomegranate molasses  
2 tablespoons honey (or 3 if no molasses)

Gently heat all these ingredients and simmer for 5 mins until syrupy.

As soon as cake is cooked pierce all over with a skewer and slowly pour the syrup over the top, allowing it to sink in. Let the cake completely cool in the tin. Sprinkle with the pomegranate seeds and serve with Greek yoghurt.





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513701; office@christchurchmarlborough.org.uk  
Christchurch Office, New Road, SN8 1AH  
(Fridays, 14:30 to 16:30)

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## **FROM THE REGISTERS**

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### **Funerals - we pray for the families of:**

- 18 November David 'Dave' Robert Price (77) of Five Stiles Road, Marlborough  
*St Mary's Church, Marlborough and Marlborough Cemetery*
- 28 November Michael McNicholas (85) of Hyde Lane, Marlborough  
*St George's Church and Marlborough Cemetery*
- 1 December Eileen Sylvia Crowe (77) of London Road, Marlborough  
*St George's Church and North Wilts Crematorium, Royal  
Wootton Bassett*
- 5 December Kathleen Lucy Roberts (95) of York Place, St Martins,  
Marlborough  
*Kingsdown Crematorium*
- 27 December Joyce Brooks (93) of Hungerford Nursing Home, Hungerford  
*St Mary's and Marlborough Cemetery*

# News From The Churches

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With the lockdown and all the other things that have happened in January, Christmas seems a long time ago. However it is exciting to be able to report that:

- At least 1500 people came to visit the exhibition of the Angels in St Mary's.
- The Car Park carol service held by Emmanuel on 20th December at Tesco, Marlborough, was so popular they had to run the service twice. "We were thankful to Tesco for having us, and for providing mince-pies, as well as for their service to the community during this difficult year. We were thankful to God for good weather (in the end!); that the wider community caught the vision for this; and most of all for the Lord Jesus, who stepped down into our bubble to save us."
- MAPAG organised and delivered 44 Christmas hampers; thank you to all the church congregations for your generous donations. "We had a great time delivering the food hampers and I did get to note some of the comments....It is important to say that many couldn't actually believe it and were so shocked they didn't say much! There were huge smiles and lots of stifled tears, and some not stifled. It meant a great deal!"

## Thank you Maurice and David

Maurice Smith stepped down from the role of Property Steward at Christchurch on December 31st 2020 - a role he has so ably delivered for over 30 years. Thank you, Maurice, from all of us in the town who have relied on you for so long.

Revd Dr David Maurice has been the Associate Minister at St Mary's for nineteen years. He retired from this role on 13th September 2020 with 'Permission to Officiate', which is the license retired clergy hold. Thank you, David, for your love, care, wisdom and kindness; we appreciate your preaching and leading worship.

## Ash Wednesday, 17th February 2021 - the start of Lent

At the time of going to print we are unable to confirm live services – please see individual church websites or notices for further details.

## Lent: Exploring God in the Arts

Exploring God in the Arts is the working title of this year's Lent course – more details will be in the newsletters and online.

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

In January each year Christian Aid provides the Go and Do action points for each

of the daily reflections - linking into the important work of Christian Aid in the relief of poverty and advocacy of justice. You may wish to look at them now: <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/>

**Marlborough Quakers**                      [www.marlboroughquakers.org.uk/](http://www.marlboroughquakers.org.uk/)

continue to hold Meetings using Zoom. Contact Rachel Rosedale 512205.

**Christchurch**                                      [christchurchmarlborough.org.uk/](http://christchurchmarlborough.org.uk/)

For details of current services via Zoom please check the church website .

**St Thomas More**                                      [marlboroughhandpewsecatholics.org.uk/  
notice-board/](http://marlboroughhandpewsecatholics.org.uk/notice-board/)

Worship services continue at St Thomas More with live services.

**Emmanuel Marlborough**                      [www.emmanuelmarlborough.org/](http://www.emmanuelmarlborough.org/)

Emmanuel continues to run regular Sunday afternoon services, with children's activities, and midweek groups for children and adults, either in person or online as the regulations allow. We are also planning a Christianity Explored course for enquirers to discover the person of Jesus in Mark's gospel (online or in person, as the regulations allow).

For more information, contact [office@emmanuelmarlborough.org](mailto:office@emmanuelmarlborough.org)

**Marlborough Anglican Team**      [www.marlboroughanglicanteam.org.uk/](http://www.marlboroughanglicanteam.org.uk/)

St. George's and St. Mary's will continue with zoomed services for the present, St John the Baptist, Minal are continuing to hold live services.

All three churches will remain open for private prayer:

St Mary's 9am-4pm; St George's 9am-4pm; St John the Baptist 9.30am-4.00pm; also Prayer meetings on Wednesdays at 8am in St Mary's Church and in the afternoon via a zoom meeting at 5pm.

Prayer support is available for individuals or for your loved ones. Please contact the clergy, in confidence; see page 25. Please do be praying for our world and the church at this time.

## **MAPAG**

Have an open Zoom meeting on Feb 1st at 5.00pm looking at plans for 2021.

## **Marlborough Churches Together Fraternal**

may meet on Wednesday February 3rd at 12.30pm. Please contact the clergy if there is anything you would like raised at the meeting.

# Tower and Town staff

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## Every Month

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<i>News from the Churches</i>	Alison Selby	church.news@towerandtown.org.uk Crossmead, Kingsbury St, SN8 1HU	511128
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<i>Family News</i>	Jessy Pomfret	family.news@towerandtown.org.uk	519134
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## Website, searchable article archive

<https://www.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 March issue by Tuesday 9th February please.

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