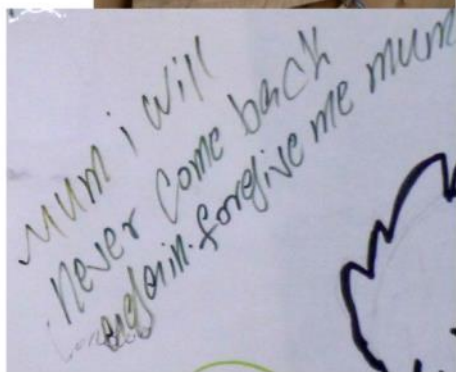

TOWER AND TOWN

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IMMIGRATION



SEPTEMBER 2016 50P

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TOWER AND TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

NUMBER 663 SEPTEMBER 2016



Immigration

A privilege of being an editor of Tower and Town is that one can choose the theme for the month and I guess all editors choose a subject that is currently close to their hearts.

Having recently spent ten days working with refugees and asylum seekers in the so-called “Jungle” in Calais, my heart has certainly been troubled by the issue of migration and what our responsibilities should be towards our fellow human beings who are fleeing conflict and oppression in their countries of origin; have uprooted themselves from families and everything that is familiar and loved in those countries; have undertaken impossibly difficult, perilous and long distance journeys at huge cost; and face a totally uncertain future.

I have invited four migrants to the UK and Marlborough and nearby to reflect on the issue of migration.

Lord (Joel) Joffe was a human rights lawyer in South Africa and a leading attorney in the team that defended Nelson Mandela and his ten co-accused at the Rivonia trial. Following the trial which led to Mandela’s imprisonment on Robben Island, as opposed to the death penalty, Joel came to England as a political refugee and has lived at Liddington for many years.

Joe Anderson is Ghanaian by birth and came to UK in 1954 at the request of the Engineering company Halcrow and has lived in Marlborough since 1983.

Ilse Nikolsky migrated from Communist East Germany to Democratic West Germany and thence to Britain in 1970 and Marlborough in 1973.

Janneke Blokland chose to come from Holland to be trained as a theological student at Westcott House, Cambridge and is now the Curate at St Mary’s Church in Marlborough.

I am grateful to them all and to Hugh De Saram for his counterbalancing views on the Free Movement of People within the European Union.

Nick Maurice - Editor

cover photos: Nick Maurice see page 11

Migration - a bird's eye view from Ilse Nikolsky

Birds, cells, atoms all migrate and so do people. Wikipedia says: Human migration is the movement by people from one place to another with the intentions of settling temporarily or permanently in the new location.

Human Migrants are everywhere; Scots and Irish who live in England, people from London who moved to the countryside, the retired who come to live in Marlborough and the young of Marlborough who cannot afford the house prices and have to move away. And then there are the Others; also referred to variously as asylum seekers, immigrants, economic migrants and at worst... scroungers.

People migrate for all sorts of reasons, and lucky are those who relocate for nicer weather, better housing or a relaxing lifestyle. Others escape wars, oppression, dictatorship or they simply want to better their lives and that of their families. I have migrated twice in a big way; once from a communist system to a democratic one within a divided Germany, and a second time for love and marriage from Germany to Britain. Each migration had its difficulties. Being an East German 'Flüchtling' in well-to-do Bavaria I was often an embarrassment to those who had mentally cut off all thoughts of their unfortunate cousins in the GDR (this stood for East Germany's 'German Democratic Republic') and later on, as a German, moving to England provided for a few unpleasant encounters as well.

Time is of course a great healer, people have the habit of getting on with each other and I settled in the new locations. For migrants with different religions, languages or customs from those who are already there, settling in will take time, and in the process changes the society into which they settle. This unsettles the often reluctant hosts. Looking at the history of this island I wonder at what time the Celts, the Romans who stayed on, the Angles and Saxons, the Vikings, the Normans, the Huguenots (who came in two waves 1572 and again 1685), the Hanoverians and more recently the people of the Commonwealth stopped being migrants? They are now from 'Here'.

So I ask : I came to Britain in 1970, worked and paid tax since my arrival, have lived in George Lane since 1973 and in the same house since 1975 – when, if ever, do I stop being a Migrant?

Great Britain found it easier to conquer the East than to know what to do with it.

Horace Walpole 1717-1797

It's clear that immigration played a part in the decision of some people to vote Leave in the June referendum. However, although there are certainly a few people with generalised anti-immigrant sentiments – and that not just in Britain but across the EU – I believe there are much more significant currents flowing. It has to do with the Free Movement Of People. Here is my take on it.

We watched a number of interviews with people at the bottom of our economic heap here in the UK, and for them it's quite simple. While for us comfortably-off folk the free movement of people has meant nice cheap EU labour and a rising standard of living, for those being interviewed it has meant an uncontrollable stream from the poorer, newly-joined countries competing for work and adding pressure on housing and other services. They feel it has contributed directly to increased inequality. We don't see that. We live above that.

The free movement of people was a fine idea when the members of the EU were of more or less equal standard of living and the flow of migration equal in all directions. However, when the EU started admitting countries with a lower standard of living, the flow of people from poorer countries became more powerful than that going the other way. In January 1973 I was already in Paris ready to take up a job. When Romania (for example) joined the EU, my children had no plans to head for Bucharest. The dynamic is now entirely different.

For the EU the free movement of people is a central article of faith; for the people we heard in the interviews it has become a direct threat, but one that Merkel is reported to have refused point blank to negotiate. Sooner or later, somewhere across the rich northern nations of the EU, reaction was bound to burst through. Probably because our language is the international lingua franca and our job market so open, it's happened here first, but it's not just Britain where these opposing currents are stirring turbulence – and there is no apparent limit to the queue of poorer countries lining up to join.

I don't like Abroad. I've been there

King George V

God separated Britain from mainland Europe, and it was for a purpose

Margaret Thatcher

When justifying why we in UK should accept more refugees and asylum seekers I often say that, given what they have survived both in their countries of origin and their journeys to get here, by definition these will be exceptional people who will make a positive contribution to our society.

In 1980 I worked as a nutritionist member of Oxfam's emergency team in Cambodia, following the fall of Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge. When the time came, after four months, for members of the team to return to the UK and be replaced by others, we were approached by six young Cambodian friends who had worked with us as interpreters and supporters of our work in the provision of emergency food, and in the fields of health, education and water and sanitation. They made it clear to us that they feared for their lives at the hands of the hard line communist regime, because of the close relationship they had developed with us and asked if we would help them to flee the country.

We gave them the financial assistance required to travel on foot for two weeks across Cambodia from Phnom Penh to the border with Thailand where, having bribed the guards at the border, they gained entry to one of the many refugee camps on the border. One year later, having managed to persuade the British Government that our friends should be issued with visas, we found ourselves welcoming them to a resettlement centre in Brighton.

Amongst them was a young married couple Borithy and Somali Lun who during the 4 ½ years of the Khmer Rouge regime had suffered appalling deprivation and witnessed the deaths of members of their families in what became known as the "Killing Fields". They were eventually housed in Witney, Oxfordshire where Borithy worked initially on a check-out counter in Waitrose in Oxford, and brought up their two girls, Thida and Bophani, born soon after their arrival in the UK.

Kate and I used to visit the family regularly to celebrate Cambodian New Year or Christmas and watched the girls grow until one Christmas, we received a card from Borithy and Somaly to say that they had some good news. Thida, now eighteen and educated at the local state school in Witney had won a scholarship to St Hilda's College, Oxford. From Oxford she went on to work as a civil servant in the Department for International Development and was posted by DFID to Sudan, Iraq, Kabul in Aghanistan and thence to Sierra Leone. Bophani the younger daughter took up a career in teaching and is a primary teacher in Brighton

Since then, Borithy and Somali have left the UK and returned to Phnom Penh to work for development agencies in Cambodia.

I rest my case!

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Joel Joffe on his arrival in England

I arrived in the UK without a passport because the apartheid government had withdrawn it preparatory to arresting me. Happily my family was granted political asylum and we have lived here happily valuing freedom and the tolerance of the British population. This does not qualify me as an expert on migration but what it does do it is to make me personally a firm supporter of immigration for refugees who are desperate to have the privilege granted to me of living in the UK.

The UK has a proud tradition of granting asylum to political refugees who, persecuted in their countries of birth, flee in desperation to the UK. The government is obliged under international laws - to which it has subscribed - to maintain this tradition, so this is not an issue. What is an issue is the process followed by the Home Office which under political pressure often arbitrarily refuses applications for political asylum and the right to appeal against these decisions has been severely limited by recent legislation. This is contrary to our common law that unjust decisions can be appealed.

The position with economic immigrants is different from political asylum immigrants because, while they are normally victims of poverty, they are not personally being persecuted and what they aspire to is a better life for their families. We should welcome them on the grounds of humanity and because they have the potential to contribute to our wellbeing. One only needs to look at the immigrants and descendants of immigrants in our country to recognise how they have enriched our society for the benefit of all in so many fields ranging from the NHS to education, to business, to sport and the arts. However while our humanity and self-interest moves many of us to welcome all immigrants, this has to be tempered by the recognition that the UK cannot absorb all the immigrants who wish to come here. The pressures on housing, the NHS, social services, education and other services as well as on employment, would adversely effect the lives of many of our citizens. It accordingly becomes clear that immigration to the UK has to be controlled.

I do not know what the solutions are to the European refugee crisis and clearly the UK cannot solve this crisis. What the UK can do is admit as many immigrants as it can both for humanitarian reasons and for the contribution they can make to the UK. The number of immigrants to be admitted in future years must surely be a great deal more than the previous government proposal to cut immigration to below 100,000 a year. While the pitiful offer made last year by the Prime Minister to admit only 30,000 desperate Syrians - adult and children - over five years, hardly enhances the UK's reputation as a caring nation particularly in contrast to the mil-

Migration: problem or potential? - Janneke Blockland

One of the things that makes me feel most ‘Dutch’ is wearing my orange t-shirt at significant sport events. Unfortunately, that opportunity was largely taken away this summer, as The Netherlands didn’t qualify for the UEFA Euro 2016 – having been beaten by Iceland in the qualifications... and sadly speed skating isn’t really an Olympic Summer sport either!

Very few days pass when I don’t speak to any of my British, German or Dutch friends living in Switzerland, Belgium, Chile and Germany, or to my friends and family in The Netherlands. This is so much part of daily life, that it doesn’t really make me think of myself as a migrant or foreign national in Britain.

Of course, this has been different over the last few weeks in the wake of the Referendum expressing the wish of many to leave the European Union. Although this vote concerns a very specific issue, i.e. British membership of the EU, it is certainly related to our understanding and perception of migration: leaving the EU will have practical consequences for how migration is enabled and controlled through legislation.

Human beings migrate: it is part of who we are, it is how we populated the world and how we have shaped communities and societies. It offers diversity and through our differences it gives us an opportunity to understand better who we are in relationship to each other, and thereby, from a Christian perspective, who we are in relationship to God.

Sometimes we can see others as the ‘problem’: the homeless, the elderly, those on benefits, the migrants... They are the people we don’t know, but who are different from us. Could we turn this around? Could we think of others as a gift to us, and ourselves as a gift to others? As Christians we believe that every individual is uniquely created and wanted by God: we are given each other. Given to love and to be loved; to give ourselves and to receive in return. In other words: to be with one another.

Of course, this doesn’t take away the problems we face: are there enough school places, jobs, doctors, hospital beds, ...? And what about global warming and energy supplies? But I think we should think in terms of the problem being a lack of resources, not pointing at certain groups of people causing, or even being, the problem.

Legislating migration is part of a set of hugely complex issues we face as a nation, a union and global community. Let’s hope though we can look at those issues together and not lose sight of the gifts we each have to offer and can receive.

This year twelve local and very different groups entered the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' campaign organised by the Royal Horticultural Society. This is a non-competitive scheme, linked to Marlborough in Bloom, where assessments are made on five different levels based on Community Participation, Environmental Responsibility and Gardening Achievement.

On Thursday 28 July Andy Cole, a National Britain in Bloom judge, toured the town to assess each group's project and spend time talking to volunteers about their work to improve the areas they live in.

The Marlborough groups that entered into the Scheme are: Stonebridge Wild River Reserve and Stonebridge Meadow, Stonebridge Allotments, Coopers Meadow, Plume of Feathers Garden, The Waterfront Garden, St. Peter's & St. Paul's Church Garden, Manton Village, Marlborough Community Orchard, The Merchant's House Garden, Old Hughenden Yard, River Park and Hilliers Yard.

Andy Cole's visit to the garden of St Peter & St Paul's Church was very successful. The sun was shining and the garden looked beautiful. We were met by Beryl Stunt, who has recently agreed to head up the devoted band of volunteers who have worked tremendously hard pruning the overgrown trees and shrubs and planting up the colourful beds and borders surrounding this historic church. Together with Jeremy York and Jill & Brian Wallis, Judge Andy Cole assessed the garden and heard about their achievements over the past year and future plans to create a wild-flower mini-meadow at the eastern end of the site.

The results will be announced on 6th October, together with Andy Cole's report on his visit.



What it has meant to me to be a migrant from Ghana

My professional life began when I started work in 1953 as a Civil Engineer for Halcrow in Ghana on the construction of the port of Tema. A senior engineer from Halcrow recommended me to work at their head office in London. This meant saying farewell to sights and sounds and everything familiar in my native land then romantically called the Gold Coast.

I arrived in London on 7th June 1954. Two of my happiest memories on arrival in London were being introduced to Sir William Halcrow, the Senior Partner, on the day I first reported for work, and watching the Trooping of the Colour Ceremony. Sir William enquired whether I would like to see it and to my delight said "well, this is your first day in London. Why not go off and see it!?"

Witnessing the grandeur of the Trooping the Colour Ceremony at Horse Guards Parade was a special occasion for me as a new arrival from Africa. Her Majesty the Queen in her magnificent uniform appeared very majestic on her horse during the parade as she presented the colours to the regiment.

I felt overwhelmed by the sheer pageantry of the occasion and said to myself that I must be lucky to be in the right place at the right time! The memory will always stay with me. In fact, during my first 3 days in this country I was already experiencing seismic waves of culture shock. After my civil engineering training, I was promoted to Principal Engineer in 1975. I became a Director in 1982 and a Committee member of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry for Africa.

In the early 1960s I was concerned with irrigation and reclamation work in Guyana, Ghana, Saudi Arabia, Antigua, the Sultanate of Oman and the Trucial States. In 1984 I was a member of the LCCI trade mission to Nigeria, Ghana and Ivory Coast. In 1983 I moved to Marlborough to be close to Halcrow's headquarters at Burderop Park. In 1997 the Marlborough Brandt Group funded an engineering study to provide a piped water supply for Gunjur in The Gambia. As a member of MBG I assisted with the design of two deep tube wells to augment the existing shallow wells for the supply of clean water to the community.

Settling in this country has not only taught me the benefits of cultural diversity but also profound personal development, integrity and modesty. I am also proud to state that my late lovely English wife made a huge contribution to the success and enrichment of our mixed marriage of 46 years. We were blessed with two beautiful children, three grandchildren and one great grandchild. Put simply "Mixed Marriage and Cultural Diversity in Action!"

Throughout my travels to different countries I have learnt more about myself from other people's cultures.

In order to achieve this cultural diversity we must not shut our borders as this will alienate us from the community of nations we seek to trade with. Our attitude to their citizens will determine their attitude to us.

People travel to different countries for a variety of reasons, trade, education, work, tourism, cultural exchange. We must therefore think carefully about our attitudes and decisions regarding immigration and consider the positive aspects of embracing immigrants as this will surely enrich our cultural diversity as a nation.

The result of the referendum on 23 June has sent a shock wave through the nation and the world at large but has created a volcanic eruption, spewing its emotional ash and lava into the atmosphere. But no man-made problem is beyond a man made solution. We must try to convert the liability into a positive asset.

Joe Anderson



Cover Photos - taken by Nick Maurice while working in 'The Jungle' in Calais.

- 1 Hope is stronger... found on the underside of a Portaloo seat
- 2 Desperate living conditions in the 'Jungle ' camp just 100 miles from London.
- 3 London my Dream... at least they will find compatriots in London
- 4 Wall climber giving sage advice
- 5 Sad message of an Afghan refugee

Above - a heartfelt political plea

Right - Wound of rubber bullet fired by French Gendarme



MARLBOROUGH LITFEST

30th September – 2nd October 2016

The seventh annual Marlborough LitFest aims to celebrate the best in good writing. The 2016 programme has over 30 events offering fiction and non-fiction authors, as well as children's and poetry events, creative writing workshops and a special Shakespeare celebration, all taking place in the historic market town of Marlborough.

The line-up includes one of Britain's best-loved authors, Michael Morpurgo, author and historian Tom Holland and bestselling international crime writer, Peter James as well as 2016's Golding Speaker, Lionel Shriver. Other writers include Jessie Burton on the follow up to her bestselling debut novel, *The Miniaturist*, plus a new spy thriller from ex-BBC Radio 4 Today programme presenter Jim Naughtie and an explosive new biography on Tony Blair by investigative author Tom Bower. The children's programme features Abi Elphinstone, author and illustrator, duo Phillip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre and free Under 5's story-telling sessions at Marlborough Library and the White Horse Bookshop. Back again for poetry-lovers is the annual open-mic 'Poetry in the Pub' event, whilst acclaimed poet Sarah Howe will close the LitFest at Marlborough College. The LitFest recommended summer read for local book groups is *I Can't Begin to Tell You* by Elizabeth Buchan, who is the annual Big Town Read author for 2016.

Audiences can also choose from a mix of comedy writers, debut authors and contemporary novelists, biography, themes of gardening, nature, food and travel as well as the legendary Shakespearean actor Simon Russell Beale celebrating the 400th anniversary of the death of Shakespeare. An emphasis on 'books for good' will be provided by a discussion of Rare Books at Marlborough College, on the spot book valuations and the benefits of bibliotherapy – the curative powers of the novel for 'life's ailments'.

For more information visit www.marlboroughlitfest.org. The full festival programme and tickets are available from The White Horse Bookshop, Marlborough High Street, or Pound Arts Tel: 01249 701628 / 01249 712618

(www.poundarts.org.uk/).

The Marlborough LitFest committee would like to thank its Founder Sponsor ALCS Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society, lead sponsor Brewin Dolphin and events sponsors Hiscox Insurance, Duncan Morris Solicitors and Carter Jonas for their continued support.

Marlborough Medical Practice

Patient Participation Group (PPG) Update

Did you know... You can have a free flu jab at the practice if you:



- Are 65 years or over
- Are pregnant
- Have certain medical conditions
- Are living in a long-stay residential care home or other long-stay care facility
- Receive a carer's allowance, or you are the main carer for an elderly or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if you fall ill

Flu clinics for those in the above categories will be run from 9.00 am until lunchtime on:

- Saturday 17th September 2016
- Saturday 24th September 2016
- Saturday 1st October 2016
- Saturday 22nd October 2016

If you are eligible for a flu jab, the practice will send you a letter inviting you to make an appointment. If you do not fall into the eligible categories, you can still have the flu vaccine at some of the bigger supermarkets and chemists for a fee.

Further information about flu and the vaccination programme can be found on NHS choices at <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/flu/pages/introduction.aspx>

Marlborough Choral Society may be for you

Do you enjoy singing? Marlborough Choral Society restarts after the summer break on Monday, 12th September. Come along for a couple of free sessions to see if you would like to join us. We meet at Christchurch at 7.45pm on Mondays. Call Kathy Leach on 01793 812175 or email kathy@leaches.co.uk.

No audition is required to join the choir but it helps if you can read music.

Readers' Response

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

What's on in September

Regular events

Every Monday

7.30pm: Christchurch. Marlborough Choral Society.

Every Tuesday

10-11.30am: Christchurch. Friendship Club.

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

Every Wednesday

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

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

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

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

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

Every Thursday (or some Thursdays)

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

10.30-12.00 noon: Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. Singing for the Brain. Alzheimer's Support. 01225 776481. *(Every Thursday during term-time.)*

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

Every Friday

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

Every 2nd Saturday

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

September calendar

1st-5th (Thursday-Monday)

Marlborough Common. Gifford's Circus: 'The Painted Wagon'. £15 adults, £10 children. Book now 0845 459 7469, www.giffordscircus.com

1st (Thursday)

St John's Academy and Marlborough College start of term.

7.30pm Coronation Hall, Alton Barnes. Talk by Maggie Faultless: 'On a Glass Lightly: glass engraving by Laurence & Simon Whistler. In aid of St

Mary's Church and Coronation Hall. £8. 851859.

4th (Sunday)

10am Marlborough College astroturf. Marlborough Hockey Club Day. Light-hearted hockey for men and women + free BBQ at Clubhouse.

5th (Monday)

2pm Kennet Valley Hall. Embroiderers' Guild. Talk by Isabelle Jourdan: 'Wild Woman Weaving'.

7.30pm Bouverie Hall, Pewsey. Pewsey Vale DFAS. Lecture by John Iddon: 'Never such innocence again: World War I through the eyes of Artists and Poets.' 07775 683163.

7.30pm Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group. Friends' Meeting House, The Parade. All welcome.

7th (Wednesday)

7.30pm Wesley Hall. Marlborough WI. Talk by Anna Forbes: 'The Kennet'.

8th (Thursday)

7.30pm St Peter's Church. A Talk on 're-wilding'. Come and see what that is.

9th (Friday)

7.15-9.30pm Rockley. Bat Walk. 01380 871012.

7.30pm Ogbourne St George School Hall. Marlborough Accordion Orchestra. £5 (including refreshment raffle. 841345 or 514714.

12th (Monday)

7.45pm Christchurch. Marlborough Choral Society - 1st meeting of new season. (see page 22)

8pm Ellis Theatre, Marlborough College. Marlborough Mound Trust Annual Lecture: 'Of Snails and Toads – the Marlborough Mound and the Archaeology of Garden Mounts and Grottoes'. Speaker: Mr Brian Dix. Entrance free

14th (Wednesday)

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

7.45pm Christchurch Wesley Hall, Oxford Street. Gardening Club. Talk by Ray Broughton: 'Soil Management'.

15th (Thursday)

7.30pm St Peter's Church. Marlborough History Society. Lecture by David Chandler: 'The Horse in History'. Guests £4.

15th (Thursday)

7.30pm Town Hall. Film: 'Florence Foster Jenkins' (PG). £5 in adv, £6 on door.

18th (Sunday)

7.30pm Marlborough College Memorial Hall. Concert. Wolf Hall Live! with award winning composer Debbie Wiseman, The Locrian Ensemble of London and Anton Lesser, Narrator. £20 (£10 students). 892566 or email tickets@marlboroughconcertseries.org

19th (Monday)

11am Ellendune Community Centre, Wroughton. Kennet Valley DFAS. Lecture by Charles Hajdamach: 'Dale Chihuly'. 01793 840790

7.30pm Kennet Valley Hall. National Trust Association. Filming 'Life on Earth' by Martin Saunders.

20th (Tuesday)

7pm Merchant's House. 'A Feel for Fashion'. An evening of fashionable entertainment in the 17th century with Mr & Mrs Bayly. Free to Friends, £5 to Non Friends. Includes light refreshments. Tickets from the shop or office (511491).

22nd (Thursday)

7pm Town Hall. Live from NT: 'The Threepenny Opera' (15). £15 in adv, £17.50 on door.

23rd (Friday)

8pm St Peter's Church. Marlborough Concert Orchestra concert in aid of the Mayor's chosen charities. £10 in advance from WHB and Sound Knowledge. (see page 22)

24th (Saturday)

2-10pm Treacle Bolly. Marlborough Youth Music Event for Young People Aged 13-19. £5 including £3 meal voucher.

8pm St Mary's Church Hall. Marlborough Folk Roots: While & Matthews. £14 from Sound Knowledge or 512465.

28th (Wednesday)

7pm Town Hall. Live from RSC: 'Cymbeline' (15). £15 in door, £17.50 on door.

30th-2nd October (Friday-Sunday)

Marlborough Literary Festival. Multi events. www.marlboroughlitfest.org

Julie Andrews Turning 79

To commemorate her birthday, actress and singer, Julie Andrews made a special appearance at Manhattan's Radio City Music Hall for the benefit of the AARP. One of the musical numbers she performed was "My Favourite Things" from the film "The Sound of Music". Here are the lyrics she used:

Botox and nose drops and needles for knitting,
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,
Bundles of magazines tied up with string,
These are a few of my favourite things.

Cadillacs and cataracts, hearing aids and glasses,
Polident and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses,
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,
These are a few of my favourite things.

When the pipes leak,
When the bones creak,
When the knees go bad,
I simply remember my favourite things
And then I don't feel so bad.

Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads for bunions,
No spicy, hot food or food cooked with onions,
Bathrobes and heating pads and hot meals they bring,
These are a few of my favourite things.

Back pain, confused brains and no need for sinnin',
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin',
And we won't mention our short, shrunken frames,
When we remember our favourite things.

When the joints ache,
When the hips break,
When the eyes grow dim,
Then I remember the great life I've had
And then I don't feel so bad.

News from the Churches

Women's Fellowship:

September 6th with Revd Heather Cooper.
13th MAF Dr Andrew Steele (Bring and Buy)
20th Members' Meeting
27th Susan Bothamley

Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group (MAPAG) At the time of going to press we are helping at least 15 children in the Activate programme in the Leisure Centre. Thank you so much to all who have made this possible. Thanks to your generosity we will be able to continue over the Autumn half-term and hopefully beyond. MAPAG next meet on Monday 5th September at 7.30pm in Friends Meeting House in the Parade, and all are welcome.

Filling Station, Marlborough Thursday 22nd Sept, 7.30 pm at St Peter's Junior School. The speaker is Andy Worthington from 'Open Doors', an organisation that supports persecuted Christians across the world. He will talk, among other things, of his recent experiences in Syria and Iraq.



We will be meeting on Thursdays this term, as Alpha is being held on Wednesday evenings.

The Alpha Course

Do you have questions about the meaning of life? Are you interested in exploring issues of faith?

The Alpha course offers a unique opportunity to discuss some of life's difficult questions in an easy going, relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create open and honest conversation.

Do come and join the course being run in Marlborough, which starts in the autumn with the Alpha Supper at 7.00pm on 14th September. At the Alpha Supper there will also be a short talk outlining what the course is about.

After the Alpha Supper we will meet for 10 further weeks at St Mary's Church Hall for a delicious meal followed by a short talk (DVD) and then the opportunity to chat and ask questions in small groups over coffee and cake!

For more information contact: Simon Mills on 01672 861632

Website: marlb.anglicanteam@tiscali.co.uk or Facebook : Marlborough Alpha



Sunday Lunch Club at Christchurch will not be happening in September, but there will be a simple Harvest lunch on the 25th September.

Historic Churches Ride and Stride

10th September 10am – 6pm. Walk, cycle or ride round Wiltshire visiting as many churches as you can to help raise funds for the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust.

For more information or for the important sponsor forms, contact:-

St Mary's:- Keith Galpin, 516005, audrey-keith@talktalk.net.

St John the Baptist, Minal and Christchurch:- David Fishlock, 512007, theold-forge@waitrose.com.

St George's, Preshute:- Charles Graham, 514301, ctg100@hotmail.com.

Marlborough Churches Together (MCT) Next Fraternal on 7th September.

We are looking for a new Secretary for MCT from this September. If you would like to know more about the role of the secretary, please speak to Alison Selby. If you would like to be considered for the post please speak to one of the clergy.



Roof Repairs at St George's Church, Preshute will be undergoing necessary and extensive roofing repairs during September and October. Scaffolding is due to be erected on 12th September with the work expected to start on 19th September. Please be aware that there may be some impact on internal plaster during this time and we will do our best to keep the church functioning as usual.

Regular Informal Events which are open to all at our Churches:

Informal Worship at St Mary's, Marlborough starts again on 11 September with refreshments at 5.15pm followed by a half hour Informal Worship including songs. Every Sunday (except first Sunday of the month) during term time.

Minal Munch is held one Friday afternoon each month from 3-4.30pm in the Minal Village Hall. Look out for the green banner outside the Hall to remind you. Future dates are: 16th September and 21st October.

Teddy Prayers + Picnic at St George's Church, Preshute every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 2.00pm. A half hour service especially for under fives and their carers, followed by tea and cake –contact Miri for more information: 513408 or miri.marlboughteam@gmail.com

Open House: Sing Pray Connect. Informal Worship at **St George's**, 11.30am-12.10pm every 4th Sunday of the month. Refreshments from 11am followed by contemporary worship with a Bible reading, reflection and in- depth prayer exploring current events.

Harvest Celebrations

Saturday 1st October at Preshute Village Hall in the evening (time and cost to be confirmed); please join us for Harvest Supper; sign-up sheet at the back of St George's.

Sunday 2nd October at 10.00am All Age Harvest Worship at St Mary's.

Sunday 2nd October at 10.00am All Age Harvest Worship with the Junior Georgians Choir at St George's.

Sunday 2nd October at 11.00am Family Service for Harvest followed by BBQ picnic in the grounds at St John the Baptist.

The Bishop's Debate: Prison: Why Go There?

At Marlborough Town Hall on Wednesday 12th October at 7.00pm.

"If prison doesn't work why do we send so many people there?"

The debate is chaired by Rt Revd Dr Edward Condry, Bishop of Ramsbury with guest speakers: Steve Hodson, Governor Erlestoke Prison, Andrew Neilson, Howard League and Judge Simon Hammond, Leicester Crown Court.

Admission free, refreshments provided. Organised by Marlborough and Pewsey Churches.

St Mary's Church redecoration and lighting refit

It is now 36 years since St Mary's felt a paintbrush on its walls or ceiling and the place has become very shabby with flaking plaster and paint where there have been ingresses of rainwater; and a glance above the radiators shows the ingrained dirt. In addition to this, there have been regular comments in the past about the lighting, it being both inadequate and inflexible. Well the recent re-roofing of the entire building means the rain will stay outside and the interior can have its long needed make-over. Two teams of church members, with expert advice also sought, are considering the many options for paint and lights. In such a large building it is not an easy task as it is both a technical and an aesthetic problem but it is intended to start work on plaster work repairs this autumn moving on to decoration early next year - so be prepared, there will be several Sundays when worship will take place around the scaffolding!

Family News from your local Community by Audrey Peck

You may remember that **Dorothy and Peter Blythe's** grandson, Robert **Henman**, became European Kendama Champion last year. This year he successfully defended that title in Amsterdam. He also recently played in the world championship in Japan. The competition was too strong but he was declared the best ever young western player and won the flight to Japan to compete again next year. Kendama is a challenging Japanese juggling game with a ball on a string. Robert is a student at St. John's.

Paul Smythe, former Epsom racehorse trainer, part of a famous family of jockeys and trainers, died at his home in Gales Ground, where he lived with his wife, June, and his brother-in-law, Ernie Newell; he was 79. Born in Epsom, educated at Haileybury and commissioned into the Camerons he served most of his National Service in Germany. The recession in 1975 was hard for trainers and so he wound up his business and joined the bookmakers, Coral. He came to Wiltshire in 1979 where he ran several Coral shops. He was a verger at St Mary's and Church Hall treasurer for a number of years. He is mourned by June, his two daughters, three grandchildren and his sister, Ann, who lives in Houston, Texas.

Dennis Cripps' funeral was in Ogbourne St. George Church because he was born in the village in 1933. He joined the Navy when he was 18 and his parents moved to Elm Tree Farm, Clatford. He and Hope were married in 1956 and went to live in Malta for two and a half years. They had two sons, Stephen and the late Andrew. Dennis was a local postman and organised the postal delivery routes. Being a really keen footballer, he encouraged young players and became Secretary and then President of Marlborough Football Club. Hope said that they have thoroughly enjoyed looking after their granddaughter Ella, all through her school years,

St Thomas More Church was full for the funeral of **Bernard Phillips** who died suddenly at his home in Castle Court. His family were well supported by his masonic friends, the players from his many bridge clubs and customers from the days when he was manager of Lloyds Bank. He just missed his 80th birthday party which he had planned to be a 'fun' event at the Golf Club where he had been a member for many years. Our sympathy to his son and daughter-in-law, Gary and Sarah; also to his daughter Michelle, who lives in New Zealand and was unable to attend, and his granddaughters Jessica and Charlottes.

THE MAYOR'S CHARITY CONCERT

St Peter's Church, Marlborough

FRIDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER 8pm

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Programme

Mozart

Clarinet Quintet

Saint-Saëns

Caprice for flute, oboe, clarinet and piano

Schubert

Trout Quintet

The Mayor of Marlborough Noel Barrett-Morton warmly invites you to this wonderfully popular concert.

Tickets £10 available from the White Horse Bookshop and Sound Knowledge. Tickets will also be available on the door.

All proceeds will go to Swift Medics and the Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

Marlborough Choral Society - New Season

Do you enjoy singing? Marlborough Choral Society restarts after the summer break on Monday 12th September. Come along for a couple of free sessions to see if you would like to join us. We meet at Christchurch at 7.45pm on Mondays. Call Kathy Leach on 01793 812175 or email kathy@leaches.co.uk. No audition required to join but it helps if you can read music.

Brilliant Young Pianists and Musicians in St Peter's Church

The fifth series of these hugely popular concerts given by international musicians begins on Sunday 23rd October at 7.30 with a piano recital by the remarkable Taiwanese pianist An-Ting Chang. These series provide a great platform for the musical stars of the future to perform in public at a young age, thus contributing to their professional careers. And of course, they provide the opportunity for the audience to hear the Amadeus, Brendels, Jaqueline Du Pres, Menuhins of the future!

On the menu this year: the Castalian Quartet, the British pianist, Adrian Oldland, the South African cellist Rudi de Groot playing with the British pianist Simon Watterton, the Japanese violinist Yume Fujise, the Ukrainian pianist Maria Tarasewicz and the South African pianist Ben Schoeman. The series now has an international reputation and we receive regular requests from artists from all over the world to play in the glorious and intimate surroundings in St Peter's Church,

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Marlborough Churches Together

Usual Sunday service times

Christchurch, New Road (Methodist – URC)

9.00am Worship

10.30am Morning Service with Junior Church & crèche

Society of Friends, Friends' Meeting House, The Parade

10.30am Meeting for Worship

St George's, Preshute (C of E)

8.00am Holy Communion (1st and 3rd Sundays)

10.00am All Age Service (1st Sunday)

Parish Communion (other Sundays)

St John the Baptist, Minal (C of E)

8.00am Holy Communion BCP (2nd Sunday)

9.30am Parish Communion (1st & 3rd Sundays)

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

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP on 4th Sundays)

10.00am All Age Worship (1st Sunday):

Parish Communion, Junior Church & crèche on all other Sundays

5.30 pm Informal service (except on 1st Sunday)

St Thomas More, George Lane (Roman Catholic)

11.00 am Sung Mass (See also below)

Marlborough College Services are shown at the College Chapel

Weekday Services

St Mary's Holy Communion: 10.30 am Wednesday

St Thomas More Mass: 10.00 am Mon, Tues, Wed & Sat

Holy Days: 10.00 am

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

Devotion and Youth Work

Sunday 7th August saw the send-off of Peta O'Brien, who worked for the Devotion Youth Project for the last six years. Some of the work Peta and her team of volunteers did was visible, such as the Hangout group on Thursday evenings, and recently also at the Mead on Tuesday evenings. Other work will have been less visible, such as the invaluable support she offered through mentoring individual students at St John's Academy.

devotion

Hangout@Devotion

Peta has taken up a full-time teaching post at Swindon Academy from September of this year, and we wish her and Ethan, her son, all the best for their future. We of course hope that we will still see them as members of Christchurch.

The Devotion project will continue the work Peta and others have shaped over the past years, with the help of Blayze White, who started a full-time youth and families post here in June. Some things will remain the same, such as the Hangout group on Thursdays at the Wesley Hall. Other new initiatives have already started: for example the Any Time group for 9-13 year olds, in Wesley Hall on Sunday afternoons before the 5.15pm Informal Service at St Mary's, and for others the future is unsure, such as the Hangout at the Mead.

Hangout@The Mead

Maybe most importantly, what stays the same is that the youth work in our Churches will continue under the ecumenical Devotion banner. The Youth Room at the Wesley Hall will continue to be used for youth groups and meetings; as always, we continue to look for volunteers in our different congregations and beyond, and we aspire to strengthen the links with other youth work happening in the town.

We acknowledge the need for high-quality and easily accessible youth work in Marlborough and we hope that through the Devotion project we will continue to make a Christian contribution to this.

Lastly, this is also an opportunity to say thank you to all who have supported and continue to support Devotion in many different ways. Your support, in all manner of different ways, continues to be invaluable, please contact Blayze White for more information: youthworkermarlborough42@gmail.com.

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~~~~~

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## From the Registers

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**Weddings:**

- 23 July Harriet Satchell & Robin Kirby at St George's
- 6 August Ben & Masha Wheatland wedding blessing at St John the Baptist
- 14 August Michael Perry & Annie Sinclair at St Mary's

**Departed:**

- 8 July Norma Grace Ivy Slater (89) of 24 Priorsfield, Marlborough  
*Kingsdown Crematorium*
- 31 July Anne Adamthwaite (56) of 14 Manton Close, Manton  
*St George's and Kingsdown Crematorium*

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| <i>October</i>                       |                                                                             |                                                                                             |              |
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