

TOWER AND TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

NUMBER 647 April 2015



What does Easter mean to you?

What a question! Of course it means so many different things to different people. We know that in the past, Easter was a significant church festival attended by **everyone** and followed by community celebrations with home grown entertainment... how times have changed. In putting together this edition I had a very enjoyable time remembering Easters when I was growing up, and have also looked at traditions and rituals of other countries, as well as our own. Many of course still prevail in one shape or another, albeit in a more diluted form on the whole. We look too at some different foods from around the world which are traditionally eaten over the Easter period, and there's a recipe for you to try. Plus this month Heather Cooper writes for us reminding us what Easter is really all about. There are also one or two Reflections for us to ponder on over this time.

So then, what does Easter mean to you? I imagine for some people it is a holy time, for some a time for being with family, and some will take this opportunity to simply relax, put their feet up and unwind with a few days off perhaps with an Easter Quiz! Have a go at that too.

However you will be celebrating this year, have a very happy Easter!

Sue Pells - Editor

Easter Rituals and Traditions

Easter is a time which abounds with rituals and traditions, some very similar in all corners of the world, and most rooted in paganism. They stem from the looking forward to and welcoming of the spring. In the past, fire seemed to feature quite predominantly.

In Germany, peasants would gather round the bonfire, watching carefully as superstition had it that households would be protected from sickness and fields would be fruitful for as far as the light from the fire reached. Today, on Easter Sunday, Germans still light big bonfires across the country to welcome the sun and the spring. These days though the event is used for a social gathering, an excuse to party over a beer or two. Another old German tradition is to give the house a thorough spring clean!

Italy too has fire rituals. In Florence it is a little more dramatic. La Festa del Carro – a tradition started in 1096 following the return of a Florentine knight from Jerusalem. As a reward for raising the Holy Cross banner on entering Jerusalem, he was awarded pieces of flint from the Holy Sepulchre of Christ. These flints were used to light the Easter Vigil sacred fire to be carried round the streets of Florence. Today, Florentines commemorate this event on Easter Sunday, when a 30 foot tall antique cart is pulled by a team of white oxen in a parade, which includes 150 soldiers and musicians dressed in 15th century costume. The procession travels to the Piazza del Duomo. Once there, a dove-shaped rocket holding an olive branch is fired at a cart loaded with fireworks, setting off an enormous explosion. It is believed the event brings prosperity and stability to the town.

Fire is used in many countries at this time for religious rather than pagan beliefs. In Portugal straw dolls are burned publically, the dolls depicting the figure of Judas. And all over the world, we read about processions of every size, shape and form as a celebration over the Easter period.

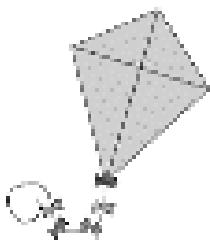
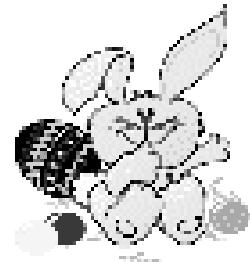
In Haiti, Holy Week is again marked by colourful parades with traditional ‘rara’ music played on maracas, bamboo trumpets and drums. However, the holiday is a mixture of Catholic and voodoo traditions. The island is a stronghold of devout believers in voodoo, who make an annual pilgrimage at this time to the village of Souvenance to give offerings and show devotion to the spirits with chanting, drumming and animal sacrifices.



One of the more modern traditions, practically everywhere it seems, is all to do with eggs. Chocolate eggs on Easter Sunday, to be eaten, and the hard boiled variety on Easter Monday for fun and games, which mainly involves rolling them down hills, the winner being the egg which reaches the farthest distance without cracking or breaking.

In America an Easter Egg Roll for children takes place on the White House lawn each Easter Monday.

Here in the UK we have the very special tradition of the distribution of Maundy money. Every year Her Majesty the Queen presents special Maundy money to local pensioners in a UK cathedral or abbey. This takes place on Maundy Thursday and is in recognition of service of elderly people to their community or church. The number of coins handed out and the number of people receiving them relates to the Sovereign's age. This year 88 people will receive 88 pennies. The coins are special little silver pennies contained in soft leather purses with a drawstring.

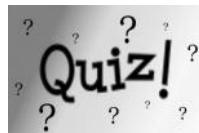


Kite flying is the tradition marked on Bermuda on Good Friday, along with eating codfish cakes and hot cross buns. According to tradition kite flying is said to have begun when a local teacher from the British Army was finding it difficult to explain to his Sunday School class Christ's ascension into heaven. So he made a kite, traditionally shaped like a cross to illustrate the Ascension. Even today, kites are home-made using colourful tissue paper, wood, metal and string, with long tails. I was fortunate to witness the celebration on the beach one Good Friday. People turned out in their hundreds. It was a truly wonderful sight.

This custom is also becoming more popular in the UK. Here in Marlborough, on Easter Monday, we have a kite flying gathering too. Why not come along and take part, or simply watch and enjoy!

Easter Quiz

1. Easter Island belongs to which South American country?
2. In the Easter song “Lord of the Dance”, on which day did the “world turn black”?
3. On the side of which hill was the Garden of Gethsemane?
4. What symbol of the empty tomb is commonly decorated at Easter by children?
5. Signed on Good Friday, 10 April 1998, what other name is the ‘Good Friday Agreement’ known as?
6. When Peter denied knowing Jesus, what gave him away?
7. At what hour did they crucify Jesus?
8. *Husvet* is the name for Easter in which language?
9. The *Osterbrunnen* is a German tradition of decorating what with Easter eggs for Easter?
10. What children’s event takes place on the White House lawn on Easter Monday?
11. When soldiers came for Jesus, what wound did Peter inflict on a servant of the High Priest?
12. The word ‘Maundy’ derives from the Latin ‘Mandatum’, but what does it mean?
13. What rank was held by the Roman soldier who stood by the cross at Jesus’ crucifixion and declared him to be the Son of God?
14. In which century were Easter postcards first said to have been posted?
15. The Saturday before Palm Sunday is named after which Biblical character?
16. In how many languages was ‘Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews’ written on a notice at Jesus’ cross?
17. Which two spices were used to prepare Jesus’ body for burial?
18. How are Easter eggs said to be distributed to children on Easter Sunday in French folklore?
19. What is the name given to the day before Maundy Thursday?
19. When is the earliest date in the calendar that Easter Sunday can take place?



Answers on page 19



Commercial Adverts

Commercial Adverts

Easter Foods from Around the World

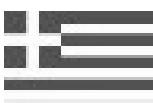
When I think of Easter I think of hot cross buns! Here in the UK it is a long-standing tradition. Anticipating these got me wondering what traditional goodies other countries ate at this time. Here are just a few interesting examples. It's surprising how similar a lot of them are, both to each other, and to ours.



Russia - *Pashka* – a pyramid-shaped dessert made from cheese is traditionally served at Easter. The dish is often decorated with religious symbols, such as the letters XB, from “*Christos Voskres*” which means ‘Christ is Risen’.

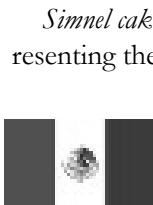


Italy - *Columba di Pasqua* - similar in taste to the Italian bread, panettone, *Columba di Pasqua* is a caked stuffed with candied peel, and shaped like a dove.



Greece - *Tsoureki* – brioche-like bread, flavoured with an essence drawn from the seed of wild cherries, and is often decorated with hard boiled eggs which have been dyed red to symbolise the blood of Christ.

UK - Of course we all know and love the good old *Hot Cross Bun* (even though we can eat them all year round!) – the sweet spiced bun, marked with a cross, which has been eaten for hundreds of years.



Mexico - *Capirotada* – a kind of spiced bread pudding filled with raisins, cinnamon, cloves and cheese, that is popular during the Easter period. It's said that each ingredient carries a reminder of the suffering of Christ – the cloves being the nails on the cross, the cinnamon sticks, the wooden cross, the cheese, the Holy Shroud, and the bread, the body of Christ himself.

Orthodox Christian countries -*Kulich* – families in many Orthodox Christian countries, including Bulgaria, Georgia and Russia, will bake a *Kulich* at Easter. The cakes are baked in tall tins and decorated with white icing and colourful sprinkles of flowers. The cakes are often blessed by a priest after Easter Sunday service. Often eaten in Russia along with the Pashka.



Germany - *Chervil soup* – Maundy Thursday is known as ‘*Grundonnerstag*’ or Green Thursday, when Germans traditionally eat green-coloured foods. Chervil soup is a popular choice.

Brazil - *Pacoca de Amendoim* – is a sweet treat made from peanuts, sugar and cassava flour. It is traditionally served in honour of the Easter festival.



Spain - *Mona de Pascua* – a popular Easter cake traditionally cooked in several regions of Spain during ‘*Semana Santa*’ (Holy Week). Traditionally resembles a large doughnut topped with a hard-boiled egg.

Memories of War

Thursday 23rd April at 7.30 pm

The Virtual Theatre Company

in association with

the Nursing Memorial Appeal

present

a performance of words and music reviving poignant memories from both World Wars.

Tickets at £10 are available from the White Horse Bookshop

in aid of the Nursing Memorial Appeal

The Marlborough History Society

Magna Carta Myths

St Peter’s Church, Marlborough

Thursday 16th April

7.30 pm

David Du Croz explodes a few myths about Magna Carta as he examines the events that gave rise to it, and the meaning attached to its clauses by those who had a hand in its composition in the context of those events.

I have very happy memories of childhood Easters. I remember it being a special time, almost better than Christmas as it lasted longer than Christmas, back then. Three days with something to look forward to each day. It was special because I think, again like Christmas, the treats, fun and certain foods only happened at that time in our house, unlike today when we can get everything any time of the year, and family traditions have, in the main, long since gone.

Easter was a time to be anticipated and looked forward to. We could only get hot cross buns on Good Friday morning where I grew up, having ordered them the day before. So it was with great delight that I would set off early with my older brother to go to the baker's shop to collect this long awaited treat and to carry them home triumphantly for breakfast, to be toasted and smothered in butter. The next treat was the Good Friday lunch – smoked haddock, with buttery mashed potato and peas. It was the only day of the year that we had this meal, to keep it special.

The following day we children were kept busy for hours painting and decorating the hard boiled eggs our mother had prepared for us during the morning. These would be hidden in the garden at some unearthly hour on Sunday morning for us to hunt for when we woke up. When the hunt was over we would run back inside clutching our precious bounty, only to peel them as fast as we could for our mother to make them into devilled eggs for breakfast. These were simply the eggs, halved and the yolks scooped out and mixed with salad cream (we didn't have mayonnaise then!), salt and pepper, and stuffed back into the egg halves.

And the treats didn't end there. While we had been hunting hard boiled eggs in the garden, our parents had been hiding one or two chocolate ones around the house for us to hunt after breakfast. We weren't allowed to touch these though until after we had eaten a special Easter roast lunch.

They were simple 'treats' but special because Easter had been kept as something special. While I was gathering together my childhood memories, I asked my 12-year old granddaughter what Easter meant to her. The answer: chocolate!!

Capirotada (Mexican bread pudding)

They all looked good, didn't they, those Easter foods from other countries? So I thought, why not find one of the recipes for us folk here in Marlborough to have a go at this Easter? Looking through the list, I think on balance, the most unusual, delicious-looking, and most easy to emulate is the Capirotada from Mexico. Now I'm sure that there are innumerable variations of this but this one sounded nice and easy. So, here is the recipe.

Give it a go....and enjoy!



Ingredients: (Serves 8 to 10)

4 small or 2 large French bread sticks	4 ½ cups of water
1 ½ cups dark brown sugar	4 cinnamon sticks
6 whole cloves	3 cups of cheese, grated
1 cup of raisins	4 tblspns butter

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F

Cut bread sticks in ½ inch slices and butter both sides, layer on a baking sheet and bake for 3 mins on each side, until lightly toasted and dry. Remove and cool.

Combine water, sugar, cinnamon sticks and cloves in a large saucepan. Bring to the boil. Reduce the heat, creating a syrup. Simmer syrup uncovered for 20 mins. Remove from heat and let steep covered for 2 hours. Pour through a strainer and discard cinnamon sticks and cloves. Set syrup aside.

Spray 8x10 baking dish with non-stick spray, layer ingredients in the following order: a third of the toasted bread, third of the raisins, third of the cheese, and 1 ½ cups syrup evenly over the cheese. Wait 15 mins and layer another third of the bread, raisins and cheese, and 1 ½ cups syrup evenly over the cheese. Let it soak for another 15 mins, and again top with the remaining bread, raisins, cheese and syrup evenly over the bread. Let it sit for another 15 mins before baking.

Cover the dish with foil that has been sprayed with non-stick spray and bake for 40 mins, uncover and bake until the cheese is golden brown, about 10-15 mins more. Serve warm.

Sabroso! (Tasty!)

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman.

He grew up in still another village where he worked in a carpenter's shop until he was thirty.

He did none of the things one usually associates with greatness.

He had no credentials but himself.

He was only thirty-three when public opinion turned against him.

He was turned over to his enemies and was crucified.

When he was dead he was laid in a borrowed grave.

Nineteen centuries have passed, and today he is the central figure of the human race.

No one has affected the life of man on earth as much as that

One Solitary Life.

I Asked Jesus

'How much do you love me?'

'This much'

he answered,

and he stretched out his arms and died.



One of the archetypal images that has come down through the Christian tradition is the idea of a Day of Judgement followed by the casting into everlasting torment of those deemed not fit for heaven. Christian art is full of this - just think of Michelangelo's Last Judgement on the wall of the Sistine Chapel, or Dante's Inferno. The idea is still very much alive today, and not just within Christianity.

But it has problems. I would like to outline just three.

First, if God knew exactly what to expect when He created humankind, having thought it all through beforehand as part of the design phase, and if part of that plan included an expectation, before He had even created them, that He would end up consigning considerable percentages of His Creation to everlasting torment, then I'm not sure that is a God I want to worship. Better, surely, never to have created in the first place, or at the very least to have decided to snuff them out. Keeping them gratuitously alive in eternal torment is sadism, pure and simple.

Second, what else does such a scenario say about the character of God? As I see it, it says He's a quitter. It would appear that He budgets a mere three-score years and ten during which time He deigns to try and woo us to worship Him, but then tires of the effort and drops us in the bin. This from someone who has all eternity to pursue us, to reach out to us, to wait for us to turn again as the father of the prodigal son waited. After a trifling 70 years He gives up! I just don't see it: isn't there a story about a shepherd who refuses to rest until all 100 of his sheep are safely in the fold?

Third, the whole idea seems disproportionate. You hear a lot from Christians about God being a god of justice; that we have free will and that punishment is our just deserts. To which my answer has to be: how much sin can you commit in three-score years and ten? Is there anything just in handing down infinite punishment in response to a finite amount of sin?

The heart of the Christian story is that God took human form, immersed Himself in human affairs and subjected himself to the worst humans could do to Him – crucifixion on a Roman cross – in order to show that He would NEVER give up on us, even if we killed him. I have no idea what happens beyond the grave, but one thing I am sure of: if God is remotely godlike, He's not going to give up on me that easily.

I was asked the other day why I went to church. A question to which, at the time, I gave some suitably glib answer.

But it set me thinking, really thinking... Just why do I go to church?

Let me admit that I am infrequent in my attendance at formal church services. I am not comfortable in worshipping en masse and I don't do happy-clappy. I go when the spirit moves me... I go when I have the time... I go when it suits me... all trite excuses, I know, that are without good reason and even less substance. Nevertheless I do go to church.

So why do I bother to go at all? Well, my parents were upright, honest and God-loving folk; I was brought up a caring Christian, and we attended church on a pretty regular basis. Then at my preparatory school in the 1940s chapel was compulsory, as it was a bit later at Marlborough College. Old habits die hard, and so you might say that 'going to church is in my blood to some extent'.

I am now in my late seventies and so why do I physically go to church? Basically, I go to escape the world for a few minutes. We live in such times of haste and stress and anger, of greed and famine, of war and want, of noise and turmoil, of disrespect and indiscipline, and of unspeakable cruelty... every so often I feel the need to find sanctuary and reflect upon those things about which I can do very little. That sanctuary happens to be my church, be it in the building itself or in the beautiful, tranquil grounds that surround St George's.

Here I gain peace, experience true quiet, spend time in thought and try to put things in proper, reasoned perspective. Above all, and unaccountably, I feel able to share my concerns, spill the beans, get things off my chest.

My church is constant: it has ever been staple in my life and although my visits there are a bit haphazard I know it is there for me both now and for always. I feel attached to my church as if by an umbilical cord.

What a blessed comfort that is. Thank you, Lord.

What's on in April

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 Lunch.

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

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

Every Thursday (or some Thursdays)

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

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

1.30-3.30pm 'The Bear'. Talking about books. Contact: 563480.

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

Every Friday

10-12 noon Christchurch Crush Hall. Food bank and coffee morning.

Every 2nd Saturday

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

April calendar

1st (Wednesday)

7.15pm Town Hall. Recorded live from NT: 'Behind the Beautiful Forevers'. £15 in advance, £17.50 on door.

7.30pm Wesley Hall, Oxford St. WI. Demonstration by Mrs June Marcom: 'Cake Making & Paper Craft Demonstration.

2nd (Thursday)

10am-12.30pm The Merchant Course. Lecture by Michael H wealth & Restoration'. £15 (£

7.30pm Town Hall: Film: 'Mr T door.

5th (Sunday)

10am-3pm High Street: Marl

9th (Thursday)

7pm Town Hall. Live Screenin Arthur Miller's 'A View from th

10th (Friday)

7.30pm Bouverie Hall, Pewsey Multi-instrumental folk.

11th (Saturday)

2.30pm Wilts Museum, Devizes 'Bronze Age Burials Research members). 01380 727369.

12th (Sunday)

7.30pm KVH, Lockeridge. Fil

13th (Monday)

St John's Term 5 starts.

12.30pm 40 St Martins. Widow 514030.

7pm Town Hall. Town Council the Planning Committee.

7.30pm Bouverie Hall, Pewsey by Caroline Shenton: 'The Da Down'. 07775 683163.

14th (Tuesday)

Marlborough College term sta

7pm Town Hall. Exclusive ac seum, Amsterdam: 'A New W £15 on door.

15th (Wednesday)

7pm Theatre on the Hill, St Jo

's House. Spring Study
art: 'Politics of the Common-
12 for MH Friends).
Turner' (12a). £5 in adv., £6 on

orough Communities Market.

ng of Young Vic's production of
e Bridge'. £15, £17.50 on door.

y. Music Live. Fleet Street:

es. Lecture by Stuart Needham:
n Project'. £6.50 for non-

n: 'The Imitation Game' (12a).

ws' Friendship Group Lunch.

I Meeting of full Town Council &

y. Pewsey Vale DFAS. Lecture
y Parliament Burnt

rts.

cess to The Van Gogh Mu-
ay of Seeing'. £13 in advance,

hn's. Election Hustings.

16th (Thursday)

7pm Town Hall. Live from NT: 'The Hard Problem'. £15 in advance, £17.50 on door.

7.30pm St Peter's Church. Talk by David Du Croz: 'The Magna Carta'. (see page 8)

18th (Saturday)

10am-5pm Corn Exchange, Devizes. Archaeology in Wiltshire Conference. £30 non-members, £25 members. Booking essential 01380 727369.

19th (Sunday)

7.30pm St Peter's Church. Piano Concert:
Anna Zassimova. (see page 20)

20th (Monday)

11am Ellendune Hall, Wroughton. Kennet DFAS. Lecture by Gillian White: 'The Elizabethan Country House'. 01793 840790.

7.30pm Kennet Valley Hall. KV National Trust Association. Lecture by Tanya Bloomfield: 'There's more to Oxford Street than just retail'.

23rd (Thursday)

7.30pm Town Hall. Film: 'The Imitation Game' (12a). £5 in advance, £6. on door.

7.30pm St Peter's Church. Virtual Theatre Company:
'Memories from both World Wars'. (see page 8)

7.30pm Bouverie Hall, Pewsey. Green Election Hustings.

25th (Saturday)

10am-4pm. Wesley Hall, Oxford Street. Awakening the Dreamer Symposium. 512205.

27th (Monday)

7pm Town Hall. Annual Parish Meeting.

28th (Tuesday)

6.30-9pm St Peter's Church. Talk by Sarah Morris: 'Under the Lady's Skirt'. (See page 19)

29th (Wednesday)

7pm St John's Academy. The Big Brandt Group Quiz.
(See page 19)

Easter Services 2015

All the churches of Marlborough wish you
a very Happy Easter and warmly invite you to worship with us:

Maundy Thursday - 2 April

- 7.00pm Section Service Passover Meal (Pewsey Methodist)
- 7.30pm Mass of the Last Supper followed by vigil until
- 10.00pm Night Prayers (St Thomas More)
- 7.30pm Holy Communion (St Mary's)
followed by The Watch until midnight

Good Friday - 3 April

- 10.30am Worshipping at the Foot of the Cross (St Mary's)
- 10.30am Meditation Service (Christchurch)
- 11.30am Procession of Witness Marlborough High Street
- 12.15pm Christian Aid Lunch at Wesley Hall
- 12.30pm Stations of The Cross (St Thomas More)
- 1.30pm – 3.00pm Devotional Service (St George's)
- 3.00pm Commemoration of the Lord's Passion (St Thomas More)

Saturday - 4 April

- 6.00pm Readings for Easter Eve (St George's)
- 9.00pm The Easter Vigil Mass (St Thomas More)

Easter Sunday - 5 April

- 6.00am Sunrise Service Martinsell Hill (see page 26)
- 8.00am Holy Communion (St Mary's)
- 8.00am Holy Communion (St George's)
- 9.30am Family Communion (St John the Baptist)
- 10.00am Family Communion (St Mary's)
- 10.00am Family Communion (St George's)
- 10.30am Holy Communion (Christchurch)
- 10.30am Quaker Meeting for Worship
- 11.00am Mass (St Thomas More)

Marlborough Church Contacts

Fr. John Blacker

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

Revd Dr Janneke Blokland

515970; jblokland@gmail.com
Team Curate, Marlborough Anglican Team

The Revd Dr David Campbell

892209; dc@marlboroughcollege.org
Chaplain, Marlborough College

The Revd Heather Cooper

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

The Revd Miri Keen

513408; miri.marlboroughteam@gmail.com
Team Vicar, Marlborough Anglican Team

The Revd Dr David Maurice

514119; david_maurice2000@yahoo.com
Associate Minister, Marlborough Anglican Team

Rachel Rosedale

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

The Revd Canon Andrew Studdert-Kennedy

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

Alison Selby

511128; alison@crossmead.net
Crossmead, Kingsbury Street, SN8 1HU
Secretary, Marlborough Churches Together

Andrew Trowbridge

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

Laura Willis

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

Marlborough Library Celebration

Marlborough Library is celebrating its 50th anniversary of being on the High Street. A branch of the County Library first opened in Marlborough at 1 The Green in 1937. In December 1964 it moved to the present building that had formerly been St Peter's School, and was officially opened on 7th April 1965.

We are celebrating with a number of events:

Wednesday 8th April 2.30 - 4.00

Join us for tea, cake and a chat, and capture your memories in our memory book.

Remember Marlborough in the 1960s?

Thursday 9th April 11.00 - 11.45

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory activity for 4 - 11s

Free tickets from the Library.

Thursday 9th April 2.30 - 4.00

Drop in and celebrate with us at our 50th birthday tea party.

Marlborough Churches Together

Usual Sunday service times

Please check pages 16 and 25-27 for Special Services & Events

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)

11.30am Matins (2nd, 4th and 5th 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.

Quiz Answers

- 1 Chile
- 2 Friday
- 3 The Mount of Olives
- 4 Eggs
- 5 The Belfast Agreement
- 6 His Galilean accent
- 7 3rd hour (9am)
- 8 Hungarian
- 9 Public wells or fountains
- 10 Easter Egg Roll
- 11 He cut off his right ear
- 12 Commandment
- 13 Centurion
- 14 19th century
- 15 Lazarus
- 16 Three (Greek, Latin and Hebrew)
- 17 Aloes and Myrrh
- 18 By church bells
- 19 Spy Wednesday
- 20 22nd March (see below)

Easter is the first Sunday following the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, as it happened at the time of the Resurrection in 30AD.

Most sources say spring equinox can sometimes be 20th March; so if the full moon occurred the next day on a Saturday then the following day (22nd) is Easter Sunday. This last occurred in 1818 and won't happen again until 2285.

Some sources give a possible 19th March equinox which implies 21st for Easter but no one seems to admit that!

The latest Easter can be is 25th April.

Please support the Big Brandt Group Quiz

Wed. 29th April

St. John's Academy

7.00 p.m.

Price - £10 (£5 for students)

including a substantial cheese platter.

There is a cup for the winning team.

There is parking, a licensed bar, and a raffle.

A fun evening for all for teams of 4, 5 or 6.

Please register your team in advance at

www.mbg.org/events or call 01672 861116

Hedge Trimmers Beware

Did you know that it's against the law to cut hedges back during spring until late summer as it could cause harm to nesting birds?

People need to check for the nests before cutting back their hedges as they can be fined up to £5000 for cutting during this time of year without checking first!

Under the Lady's Skirt



Tuesday 28th April

St Peter's Church, Marlborough

You are invited to step back in time into Anne Boleyn's dressing chamber to watch the Queen being prepared for a day at court.

An entertaining talk by Sarah Morris in aid of the Merchant's House Trust.

From the Register

Departed:

- 13 Feb Baby Bethany 'Nessie' Trafford (6mths) of Gales Ground,
Marlborough St Mary's and Cemetery
- 18 Feb Frederick John George Boardman (92) of Coombe End Court,
Marlborough St Mary's and Kingsdown Crematorium
- 19 Feb Shelagh Lillian Ainslie (90) of Kennet Cottage, Minal
St John the Baptist and Kingsdown Crematorium
- 26 Feb Audrey Kitty Tomlin (85) of Aldbourne Nursing Home, Ald-
bourne
Kingsdown Crematorium and St Michael's Aldbourne

Marlborough Brandt Group & St Peter's Church Trustees

present



"Brilliant Young Pianists in St Peter's Church" Anna Zassimova

Sunday 19 April 7.30pm, St Peter's Church, Marlborough



We could not resist asking this remarkable Russian pi-
anist to play again.

Her programme will include works by Chopin, Grieg,
Scriabin and Medtner.

Do come – you will not be disappointed!

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

Two sets of first time great grandparents!

Norma and Laurie Dobie are thrilled with their first great-grandson, born in September to Jess and Luke who live in Loddiswell in Devon. Laurie is one of the seven Dobie brothers who started to meet up in their mother, Vera's, house each Sunday morning many years ago to catch up with family news and have continued the tradition since Mrs Dobie died.

Jean and David Jones have a great grand-daughter Hermina-Rose born November 9th to Kieron Jones and his partner, Samara.

Kieron's father, Kevin Jones, Lynette and family now live in Brisbane, Australia. They moved there when Kevin left the British army after serving 23 years and joined the Australian army. He was a student at St Mary's, St Peter's and St. John's. His son, Luke, is currently in the Australian Judo team

Bernice Lee died peacefully on January 31st. Born in 1929 she was christened, confirmed and married (1953) in the Parish Church in Shepton Mallet. She played hockey, tennis and skittles and rang hand bells, including a live performance on radio 'In Town Tonight' in July 1950. When Don was transferred to Lloyd's bank in Marlborough in 1965 she and their sons, Richard and Andrew, came to live in their new bungalow in Poulton Crescent. She helped Joan Cowley with her Music and Movement for toddlers, played bowls and crib and was a Welcomer at St Mary's Church. Recently she has been cared for by Don and, since August, in Coombe End. She was proud of her family especially their grandchildren Jessica, Joshua and Emily. They gave thanks for a wonderful life in St. Mary's Church.

I asked Tony Jackson about Marlborough Big Band. He says it is a community band for all ages and is linked to On Track Music Services Ltd, a registered charity, helping disadvantaged young people become involved in music. The charity aims to help with provision of instruments, music and tuition. It was started just over two years ago by Mick Allport, a local jazz saxophonist. The Band meets for rehearsals every Friday evening at The Bear, playing a range of music mainly swing and jazz from 1930's on. Members' ages range from 14 upwards, the only qualification being able to read music and play a musical instrument to at least grade 3 level. There are no stars, just a group of like-minded musicians who enjoy playing music and having fun. Performances to date: Marlborough Jazz Festival x 2, Jazz Festival church service, Charity Concert at St Peters Church for On Track Music Services, Burbage Best Kept Village presentation, Vanessa's Lafaye's Book launch and other church services. The Band is always looking for trumpets and trombones which seem to be in short supply.

Driving back from Swindon this morning it was lovely to see the verges covered with crocuses blooming. After the snowdrops which have adorned the ground the crocuses are a further reminder that spring is on the way.

It's a lovely time of year as flowers start blooming, buds begin to appear and lambs arrive to bounce around the fields, all reminding us of new life bursting out after the darkness of winter.

For the Church this is Easter season - April 5th this year. We celebrate God's gift of new life through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus told us that he came to bring life in all its fullness and so we have much to celebrate. Easter is about the triumph of light over darkness and life over death. It is a celebration of God's love and power.

The new life of springtime reflects the new life of resurrection and reminds us all of the power of God in the face of the darkness which seems to dominate our world. In the midst of winter we know that spring will come, so in the midst of death and evil and darkness we know that God triumphs through an empty tomb. This is our hope.

*Every blessing
Rev Heather Cooper*

Commercial Adverts

Commercial Adverts

News from the Churches April 2015

Women's Fellowship

- 7th No Meeting
14th Eric Gilbert, Audio Visual – Our Town
21st Members
28th Pauline Palmer



All welcome to attend the meetings held at Christchurch at 2.45pm.

'Mark's Gospel' performed on Wed 1st April - St Mary's, Marlborough - 7 pm

We are fortunate in having Canon Gerald Osborne, a farmer and priest in the Vale of Pewsey, who will give a repeat dramatized, performance of the whole of Mark's Gospel from memory, over 11,000 words. Free entry, retiring collection for the work of Send A Cow.

Inspired by Mark's Gospel?

Marlborough and Pewsey deaneries will be offering a variety of courses to explore Mark's Gospel further:

Walk Through Mark The Marlborough Anglican Team will be offering two courses in which we will read through Mark's Gospel as a whole. Tuesday evenings 7.30pm: 14, 21, 28 April and 5 May at The Rectory, Marlborough. Contact Andrew Studdert-Kennedy <andrewsk1959@btinternet.com>.

The afternoon course will be on Wednesdays at 3.30pm: 8, 15, 22, 29 April at St George's Church, Preshute.

Contact Miri Keen (miri.marlboroughteam@gmail.com).

Christianity Explored Gerald Osborne will be running this 8 week course, which looks at what Mark says about Jesus on 27th April in Milton Lilbourne. Contact Gerald Osborne (gerald.osborne@lawnfarm.co.uk).

Good Friday 3rd April



All are invited to join us outside the **Town Hall just before 11:30am** for our procession of silent witness. Some of you will come from other church services but we hope that many more will give a few minutes of their time to mark this special day in togetherness: able-bodied and not so able – wheel chairs and push chairs.

After brief opening prayer we will walk silently along the High Street to gather again outside St Peter's for concluding prayer – and then back to Wesley Hall, Oxford Street, for the Christian Aid Lunch at 12.15pm (Admission to lunch by donation at door).

There will be Devotional Services in St George's and St Thomas More on Good Friday afternoon and on Saturday evening.

Easter Sunday 5th April

For Easter Sunday Service dates please see page 16



Sunrise Service on Martinsell Hill on Easter Morning starts at 6.00am. Park in the Martinsell car park.

It has been suggested that **kite flying** is a way of celebrating the risen Christ, a tradition from the Caribbean. There is an opportunity to join in this Easter celebration by flying a kite at the **Marlborough College Playing Fields** on Easter Sunday afternoon at **4pm**. A fun family outing.

General Election Hustings Wednesday 15th April 2015 at 7.30pm in St John's Academy, Marlborough – your opportunity to question the local candidates prior to the General Election: Claire Perry (Conservative) Chris Watts (Labour) Emma Dawnay (Green) Mandy Rigby (Liberal Democrat) and Davd Pollitt, (UKIP). The Hustings will be chaired by Keith Fryer.

Magna Carta Lecture: Magna Carta and the Common People

Friday 24 April 7.30 pm, Salisbury Cathedral. Christopher Dyer has been Professor of Social History at the University of Birmingham, and Professor of Regional and Local History at the University of Leicester. He is the author of books and many articles and essays on the history of English villages and towns and their inhabitants in the middle ages. Tickets £7.

Visit: www.salisbury.anglican.org and click on the Magna Carta advert.

Mustard Seed Book Group Next Meeting

Monday 27th April 7.30pm in Mustard Seed - we will be discussing ***Less is More - spirituality for busy lives*** by Brian Draper. With short practical chapters helping us to be Aware, Awake and Alive to God in our daily lives. All welcome.



Child Sexual Exploitation, Slavery and Human Trafficking Conference

Tuesday 28th April 2015 at Sarum Academy, Salisbury 9.30am-4.30pm. 'Every person has a value and a dignity' (House of Bishops' policy for safeguarding) The conference has been sponsored by the Wiltshire Police Commissioner. £25 per person or £12 for parish attendees and volunteers. To register and book your place please contact Anna Tucker: [\(anna.tucker@salisbury.anglican.org\)](mailto:anna.tucker@salisbury.anglican.org) (01722 746943)

Awakening the Dreamer - a workshop run by Gil Hilleard (see below)

The Aldhelm Certificate 2015

Dates for Term 2: 'Faith in a Scientific World' will be held in St George's Church, Preshute on Wednesdays at 7.30pm on 22 & 29 April; 6, 13, 20 & 27 May; 3, 10, 17 & 24 June . You don't have to have attended the first term to join the course. The course is open to all, costing £15 per term, to cover the course materials. For more information please contact Janneke Blokland email: jblokland@gmail.com 01672 515970.

The Filling Station meets on 22 April at 7.30pm at St Peter's School, Marlborough. For more information please contact Helen Stokes at hcstokes@gmail.com



devotion

Hangout @ Devotion continues to meet through April. More details of activities on the website, <http://www.devotion-marlborough.co.uk/>. Please continue to pray for the work of Devotion with young people.

AWAKENING THE DREAMER SYMPOSIUM

"The day will address concerns many of us have about the state of the world and possible future we are facing. This event is a profound inquiry into how we might realise a bold new vision, an environmentally sustainable, socially just and spiritually fulfilling human presence on earth" <www.pachamama.org/engage/symposium>

Saturday April 25th , 9.30 for 10 – 4 pm

Wesley Hall, Oxford St, Marlborough

Costs: Donation towards expenses (£5.00 suggested).

Bring your own lunch. Drinks are provided.

To reserve a place contact:

Rachel Rosedale 01672.512205 <rachelrosed1@gmail.com>

This event is supported by Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group, Transition Marlborough, Marlborough Churches Together and Marlborough Quakers

Tower and Town staff

Chairman	John Osborne, 36 St Martins, SN8 1AS jeo66@btinternet.com	514364
Vice Chairman (Operations)	Andrew Unwin, Sarsen House, The Street, All Cannings afunwin@yahoo.co.uk	01380 860120
Advertising	Andrew Unwin (as above)	
Distribution	Rosemary Spiller, 2 Shakespeare Drive, SN8 1UF	512338
Subscriptions	Norma Dobie, 112a Five Stiles Road, SN8 4BG	513461
Treasurer	Peter Astle, 4 Laurel Drive, SN8 2SH	515395
Production Teams		
<i>May</i>		
Editor	David Du Croz du.croz@btinternet.com	511725
Compiler	Hugh de Saram hugh@desaram.co.uk	516830
<i>June</i>		
Editor	Alexander Kirk Wilson	
Compiler	Hugh de Saram hugh@desaram.co.uk	516830
Every Month		
<i>What's On</i>	Karen Osborne karenos64@btinternet.com	514364
	36 St Martins, Marlborough SN8 1HU	
<i>News from the Churches</i>	Alison Selby alison@crossmead.net	511128
	Crossmead, Kingsbury St, SN8 1HU	
<i>Family News</i>	Audrey Peck rogandaud@aol.com	289065
	7 Castle Court, Marlborough SN8 1XG	

Contributions and comments from readers are welcome. Please send articles and letters to the Monthly Editor, other notices or announcements to the compiler. All items for inclusion in next month's Tower & Town must be submitted by **Tuesday 7th April**.

Our Advertisers support us. Contact Andrew Unwin if you would like to join them.

Tower and Town is available in Marlborough at St Mary's, Christchurch, St Peter's, Mustard Seed, The Food Gallery and at St George's in Preshute.

Annual subscription £5 for 11 copies a year delivered to your address: