

TOWER^{AND}TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES.

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Marlborough and the Literary Tradition

This edition of Tower and Town is somewhat different from our normal fare. 2014 marks the fifth year of the Marlborough LitFest and we have decided to dedicate this issue to the LitFest itself

There are fewer articles, but both “Rocking the Boat” by Hugh de Saram (our Compiler for this month) and “4 years 4 months and 4 days” by Vet Lissy Seidel are fine examples of the skills of local writers in two completely different genres and on very distinct subject matters. Hugh poses the question whether the Christian Church needs to update its thinking when faced with the challenges of 21st century life and, if so, what are the prospects of that happening. Lissy uses her specialist experience to telling effect when recounting humorously and movingly her all too brief time of joy and grief with her rescue dog Luka.

We have given more space than usual to these two stories (and further excerpts will follow), since we feel this is entirely in line with the literary tradition of Marlborough as explained by Jan Williamson in her account of the Marlborough LitFest itself. This year promises to be a special edition of the Festival, and we are very happy to be associated with this event. We can also count ourselves lucky that this year has seen the renewal of the White Horse Bookshop. Its proactive new Manager, Angus MacLennan, writes to explain the ethos behind the newly refurbished shop.

We would very much welcome your comments on any of the stories or on the Magazine itself. But, above all,

Happy Reading!

Andrew Unwin, *Editor*

Cover Painting of Luka: Christine Beaven

Compiler: Hugh de Saram **Proof readers:** Mike Jackson and Jean Gray

Marlborough LitFest: Jan Williamson

Marlborough Literature Festival is five years old this September. When we started out, the town had a flourishing international jazz festival and a rich musical life. But despite its strong literary connections, there was little on offer to celebrate literature and the great heritage of Siegfried Sassoon, John Betjeman, Bruce Chatwin and William Golding.



AC Grayling

At the same time literary festivals were springing up all over the place. It wasn't any longer just the big well-known names of Cheltenham, Hay and Edinburgh. Towns small and large were setting up their own festivals. Many of these rode the wave of celebrity publishing. Well-known names topped the bill. Authors of real literary merit whose names were much less well-known were often squeezed out by people who might draw a crowd and happened to have written a book. We were clear from the start that we wanted Marlborough's festival to be different - a literature festival, not a book festival.

We've worked hard to stay true to that principle and to bring together each year a programme as varied and inclusive as possible. Like all arts festivals, we need sponsorship to survive. We've been lucky to have had support from Brewin Dolphin and Hiscox from the very beginning as well as the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society (ALCS). Litfest is run by unpaid volunteers. Unlike many festivals, however, we always pay our authors. No matter how well-known or unknown, all receive the same (small) fee.



Lynne Truss

This year is the centenary of the First World War and we mark it with a talk on the war poets by Rowan Williams, himself a poet. Our Golding speaker, always a well-established author of fiction, is Louis de Bernières. We have poetry in the College and in the pub; children's author Caroline Lawrence; history with Mike Pitts and historical fiction with Sarah Dunant; a literary breakfast on Sunday morning and a writing masterclass; young, prize-winning authors, crime writers, the biographer Jenny Uglow, the philosopher AC Grayling and the brilliant, funny author of *Eats, Shoots and Leaves*, Lynne Truss – and much more.

LitFest is for everyone who loves reading - and how lucky we are to have the White Horse Bookshop still, renewed and ready to support, inspire and inform all of us who love books.

Rocking The Boat: Hugh de Saram

When Peter stepped out of the boat to walk to Jesus on the water, we can be certain that he rocked that boat.

Preface

How should Christians respond to newspaper headlines quoting a former Archbishop of Canterbury's fears that Christianity will be extinct in this country within one more generation? What is it about the Church and Christianity that leaves major percentages of our population completely cold?

What follows here is offered in the hope that it might inspire vigorous discussion. It comprises the first third of a bigger article, with footnotes, that can be found at www.rockingtheboat.co.uk. The other two thirds are planned for subsequent editions.

In The Beginning

In the beginning, we read, God created heaven and earth, and shortly thereafter, man and woman. However, what is presented as an idyllic start is short-lived: Adam and Eve are rapidly shown the red card after an infringement against which God had specifically warned them. Their punishment, we are told, has consequences not just for themselves but for all succeeding generations of mankind.

In Rudyard Kipling's memorable book *The Just So Stories*, we read beguiling tales of how the leopard got his spots, how the rhinoceros got his armour-plated skin, and about the elephant whose short, boot-like nose was stretched to the proportions we know so well today by an encounter with a great grey-green greasy crocodile on the banks of the Limpopo River, all set about with fever trees. While each of these stories contains a particular truth – the leopards that we see around us today do indeed have long noses, the leopards are wonderfully spotted, the rhinoceroses curiously armour-plated in their great folds of skin – none of these stories is presented as history. What Kipling has done is to take processes that did occur but only over thousands, perhaps millions of years, and compress them into charming stories lasting no more than a few days – one lifetime at most – in order to make the particular truths mentioned above vivid, memorable and delightful.



Courtesy telegraph.co.uk

The Greeks did the same thing on subjects such as the variation of the seasons (the story of Demeter and Persephone) and many more. Here again, deep truths are captured in vivid, compelling stories but without any question of their being thought of as history.

Rocking The Boat (cont.)

The Garden of Eden story in the Bible is exactly such a story. Its literary form is almost exactly that of a Just So story. Most importantly, it compresses into a brief timespan a process that in reality must have taken thousands of years, namely, the emergence of moral sensibility as ape evolved into *homo sapiens*. What we see is mankind making a moral choice – cast symbolically as eating the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil (a tree that does not actually exist as an arboreal reality). The key thing is that it encapsulates a singular truth, namely, that mankind is a moral being and that we're really good at making bad choices.

There is a further aspect to this story that is worth commenting on. Reading the Biblical account of Adam and Eve's transgression in the Garden of Eden rather gives the impression that the whole debacle took God by surprise; that it was an unexpected failure in the Creation that He had only just finished and found to be “very good”. In the next section I'd like to think about that.

Before The Beginning

We know about – or at least we have stories about – the beginning, but what about before the beginning? Before God pressed the Go button on the Creation machine, did He spend some time thinking the whole project through? Or did He just wake up one day and act on an un-thought-out whim? I accept that this is ridiculously anthropomorphic language applied to something that is outside time and space, but the Bible itself is no less anthropomorphic.

I think we have to hope and assume that He thought it all through in minute detail before actually putting the project into operation. If He didn't then we might be tempted to agree with the musings of Scottish philosopher David Hume (1711-76) that “This world, for aught [we] know ... was only the first rude essay of some infant deity” (*Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion, part V*). We would have to ask ourselves whether we as a species constitute a sort of Frankenstein monster, a creation run out of control, doing things never thought of by its creator.

So was the Primal Sin described in the Garden of Eden story a surprise to God or not?

I think not. If God is anything like His Biblical representation, then He must surely have been smart enough to know that the humans He himself had specifically designed and created would undoubtedly sin. He would have known with absolute certainty that if He gave us a degree of free will, many people would exploit that freedom to the utmost limits, both good and bad. He would have known that, sooner or later, figures with the propensities of people (continued on page 11)

The White Horse Bookshop: Angus MacLennan (manager)

The White Horse Bookshop has been a part of the fabric of Marlborough life since the early 1940s. We had assumed it dated from the late 40s, but recently Capt. John Williams, a Navy pilot, came into the shop and showed me two 'Aircraft Spotter's Guides' he had bought from the White Horse Bookshop in 1944. Since opening the shop has had four previous owners and is now owned by Robert Hiscox and Brian Kingham, as I am sure most people will know.

The building itself dates back to at least 1557 (we know this because, according to the History of Marlborough by Chandler, there is a beam with this date carved into it somewhere in the building - we just don't know where.) How long before this date it was built we do not know. We would be fascinated if anyone could tell us anything further about our history.



I don't think it is an over-statement to say that the new White Horse Bookshop has been considerably enhanced in the refurbishment. We are larger, with two floors of books, and have retained our art shop and art class programme - and there will be more to come, hopefully, with plans already submitted to build an event space to the rear of the building and enlarge the 'studio' space upstairs. We will then be able to hold a myriad of different events as well as be a venue for the whole town to use when appropriate.

The main thought I had whilst designing the new shop was that it should be big enough to be worth making a special journey, whether you know what you want, or are coming simply to browse. Having the right books in stock always takes time to work out so please don't hold back in what you think we should be stocking, just as I won't hold back in my response!

Our continued success depends not only upon the support of the town (I am truly appreciative of the support shown so far) but also the community telling us what they, you, think about what we do. I sincerely look forward to our future together and serving the readers of Marlborough in the way they deserve.

4 Years, 4 Months, 4 Days: Some excerpts from a tale by Lissy Seidel



Lissy Seidel's roots are in Bavaria, but she has been living and working as a Vet in the Marlborough area for quite some time. In keeping with the aims of the Marlborough Litfest, we are very pleased to highlight this new local writer's clean and flowing style, as she tells movingly of her time with her rescue dog Luka from the first diffident contact to full trust, joy and companionship, only cut short by Luka's untimely death. The following four excerpts give a hint of the mixed emotions that this partnership engendered.

Oh hell and damnation! What a start to my life with a new hound – there he stood beside me, with a rather belligerent neighbour's chicken in his mouth.

Yes, I had kept him on the lead. I just had not kept the same short enough.

What was I going to do?

I have to confess I blanched at the thought of knocking on Shirley's door, owing up to one of her straggly hens having met an untimely end. I would never hear the end of it.

Not that her free roaming birds weren't regularly decimated by the healthy fox population thriving near the village, but this wonderful opportunity to keep me forever in her debt would not be missed. “Leave it, let go!” I hissed at the delinquent hound. He didn't even have a name yet, having shown no recognition for the name he had arrived with.



Little did I know that this episode was to set the tone for a time filled with drama, joy, happiness and laughter as well as nerve shredding anxiety and gut wrenching fear, ending with deepest despair and total heartbreak.

I knew the moment I clapped eyes on Luka that he was for me. Within a week I drove to Tewkesbury, completed the paperwork and took him home.

Luka gently tiptoed into my hallway and promptly lifted his leg. I just hissed at him and he never did it again.

A dedicated dog sofa stood in the corner with two large beds spread out on the floor nearby. His eyes grew round and interested when he started to sniff the first beanbag. One careful paw stretched out and tested the surface. Gingerly he stepped onto the bed and lowered his body. Looking slightly perplexed, he shifted a bit closer

4 Years, 4 Months, 4 Days (cont.)

to the second bed and slowly laid his outstretched head on the second bed. Obviously it still didn't feel right. He got up and moved over onto the second bed. He lay down, curled up and a massive sigh indicated that this might just be the right spot. The expression on his face said very clearly “you mean...all for me...?”

Bedtime came and quietly, without fuss he got up and followed me upstairs. Having arranged yet another dog bed to his satisfaction he looked content and settled. Lights off, a blissful stretch of sleep beckoned.

Or so I thought.

No more than a few minutes had passed and gradually a disembodied voice seemed to float high under the ceiling. Hardly audible at first, but soon it became



clear, yes, a soft whining accompanied each breath, sometimes punctuated by a vocal question mark. Occasionally there was a little break of maybe 10 or 15 seconds before the high pitched whimper started up again. Don't worry, I told myself, he will settle, he won't carry on all night.

An hour later I began to wonder. The last thing I wanted to do was to shout at him to shut up, it just meant I was giving him attention, a reward in itself for the relentless racket that very comprehensively ruined any chance of sleep. Several times I switched the light on, got up and fiddled with the curtains, just rubbing the hound's cheek lightly with a finger as I walked past.

The lights went out again and there was breathless anticipation, oh hurrah, he's quiet at last! Whiiiiiiiiiiiiinge...whiiiiinge....I turned over restlessly, muttering angrily to myself. The clock struck twelve...one...whiiiiinge...

I finally had enough. Grabbing a woolly jumper in the dark I bunched it up into a ball and fired this soft missile off in the general direction of the source of irritation. A surprised little squeak followed – then nothing. Blissful restful silence. Surely this couldn't last long?

Unbelievably though it did.

We were walking in the wide open space of Beckhampton Gallops. A very popular spot for dog walkers in the afternoons. Sunlight lit up the pale gold of the stubble field and the high pale blue sky, (continued on page 12)

Rocking The Boat (cont.)

such as Hitler, Pol Pot and others would emerge from society, just as He would have known that Mandela-like figures, Mother Theresa-like figures would also emerge. I say -like, because I don't think there's anything deterministic about this. I am not trying to say that the specific person Adolph Hitler was pre-ordained to appear in history at his appointed time. I am trying to say that, given that He had designed us in the first place, God must have reckoned that, on a statistical basis, sooner or later some such personality would more than likely emerge somewhere or other.

If, then, we can agree that God thought His whole Creation project through before He actually embarked upon it, we also have to agree that He could at any stage have decided that what He was about to let loose was too risky and have abandoned the whole project. In short, He was under no compulsion to create, and He knew exactly what to expect once the project was in train.

This has major implications for how we look at the Garden of Eden story. We could perhaps decide that, far from being the great disaster that it is traditionally presented as, the development described in the Garden of Eden was in fact an absolutely major step forward. Mankind developing a moral awareness, learning to make moral choices, was something that we might surmise God had been longing for and looking forward to throughout those long millenia of evolution. As a colleague put it, we can almost hear Him shouting “Hurrah! At last!” Instinctive animal behaviour is at last being overlaid by the ability to think in morally analytical terms, bringing us that much closer to God in His long-conceived plan to raise us to be His sons and daughters.

I think there is a further implication in espousing this way of thinking. It seems to me to mean that we can never be sure that we have sucked the final truth out of the Biblical text; we have to keep going back to it, re-examining it in the light of the new perceptions that come to us as generation succeeds generation. For example, there is no doubt at all that the ideas of Darwin impose a completely different set of proportions on our view of history compared with those accepted by the Church up until his time, and thus on how we understand the Bible. This and many other developments force us to re-appraise over and over again interpretations that have in many cases been taken for granted for nigh on two thousand years. The question of the authority of the Bible, therefore, emerges as one of immediate interest for a subsequent article. (to be continued)



Courtesy of etc.usf.edu

4 Years, 4 Months, 4 Days (cont.)

over the rolling turf. I felt at peace and watched my Lurcher trotting languidly along the edge of the field, sniffing at a clump of grass, a large Sarsen stone marking the side of the path. I watched him sniffing the breeze and looked far ahead towards the steep rise of the bank above the emerald green strip of the grass gallop ahead.

My heart missed a beat – there the unmistakable shapes of three grazing deer showed up quite clearly against the pale gold of the stubble. I saw Luka's ears prick up. “Wait!”

The urgency in my voice got an immediate response, his head swivelled around and I drove home my advantage.

“Come, come” I called in a clipped voice, heart hammering in my chest. I could see he was torn, the deer were looking up, motionless, but if they broke into a run his hunting instinct would kick into overdrive and he'd be gone.



It didn't bear thinking about. With a very busy road not far from the crest of the bank, pictures tumbled in my mind, brakes screeching, the dull sound of body on metal...all my focus was intently directed at Luka. I kept calling, forcing myself to move, run away from him rather than towards him. A turn in my direction, another call, a hesitant step towards me, I turned round, walking as calmly as I could manage towards him. Another look over his shoulder, another quiet 'come' from me...I hooked the lead on the collar, adrenaline rushing through my veins, leaving me light headed, heart pounding, legs shaking.

'Ahhh...bless him, he's old, isn't he?'. Helen, my friendly next door neighbour bent down, stroking the hound who had limped towards her, milking a small cut in his pad to full effect. Liquid brown eyes were trained at me, clearly expressing his appreciation of someone who really knew how to treat a grievously injured hound. I started to explain that, in fact, he was only three years old when suddenly he spotted a cheeky rabbit lingering in the churchyard.

In an instant the slightly decrepit, painfully hobbling object of pity turned into a blurred missile, disappearing at what seemed like 50 miles per hour after the hapless rabbit. The expression on my neighbour's face was simply priceless, astonishment mixing with incredulity, shock and surprise. “Well”, she drily remarked, “he's not doing too badly, is he now?”(to be continued)



Kempson Rosedale
Enterprise Trust



Community Action Nepal
कम्यूनिटी एक्शन नेपाल

THE THREE PEAKS: Everest, K2 & Kanchenjunga

Widely acknowledged as one of the greatest mountaineers of all time, Doug Scott has made numerous significant first ascents in the Himalaya. In a stunningly illustrated talk, Doug tells of his adventures and insights on the world's three highest mountains.

Theatre on the Hill, Marlborough
Friday, 12th September 2014
7.30pm-9.30pm

Tickets: £15 (£5 for pupils)
From www.marlboroughboxoffice.co.uk
or from the **White Horse Bookshop**



All proceeds from this lecture will be donated to:

www.kretrust.com & www.canepal.org.uk

Charity Numbers 900126 (KRET) & 106772 (CAN)

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OPTICIANS

Ride + Stride

Wiltshire Historic Churches Ride and Stride

Book the date: Saturday 13th September

Last year's Ride + Stride event raised around £45,000 for Wiltshire churches. Half the money raised goes to the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust to enable them to give grants to churches for repairs and maintenance, and the other half comes back to the participant's own church.

Please put the date in your diary – Saturday 13th September. You can participate, whether it is cycling, walking or horse-riding, have an enjoyable day out visiting some of Wiltshire's magnificent churches and exploring the surrounding countryside.

Please contact Keith Galpin for sponsorship forms: 01672 516005

Or email: audrey-keith@talktalk.net

wiltshirehistoricchurches.org.uk

What's on in September 2014

Regular Events

Every Monday

7.30pm Christchurch. Marlborough Choral Society.

Every Tuesday

10-11.30am Christchurch. Friendship Club.

2.45pm The Parlour, at 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.

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

Every Thursday

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

10.30am Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. Sing for the Brain. Alzheimer's Support Group. 01225776481. (Every Thurs 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)

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

September Calendar

29 Aug-1 Sept

Marlborough Common. Giffords Circus

Mon 1 Sept

Term Starts for Marlborough College and St John's

2pm Kennet Valley Hall Lockeridge. Talk by Jennie Rayment: 'Trials and Tribulations of the Travelling Nipper and Tucker' 01249 750865

1-13 Sept

Daily 10am-4pm St Peter's Church. Wall of Remembrance: An Exhibition of Wiltshire Schools' Commemoration of the First World War

Wed 3 Sept

7pm Town Hall. KVAT 'The Two Gentlemen of Verona' live from RSC. £15 in advance

Thurs 4 Sept

7pm Town Hall. KVAT 'Medea' Live from NT. £15 in advance

Fri 5 Sept

6.30pm Theatre-on-the-Hill. KVAT Film 'Muppets Most Wanted' (PG) £5 (adults £3)

7.30pm St Peter's Church. Marl Brandt Group: A Gambia Evening: an opportunity to hear from the young people reporting back from their recent trip to Gunjur

- Sat 6 Sept** Marl Leisure Centre Open Day
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- Mon 8 Sept** 7.30pm Bouverie Hall, Pewsey. Pewsey Vale DFAS. Lecture by Daniel Snowman: 'Guerra! Guerra! Music, Art & War 1800-2000'. 01264 852779
- Tues 9 Sept** 7.30pm Town Hall. KVAT 'Hermitage Revealed: The Story of Russia's Legendary Museum' £13 in advance
- Wed 10 Sept** 12.30pm 40, St Martins. Widows' Friendship Lunch. Contact: Pauline Berryman 514030
- 7.15pm Christchurch Wesley Hall. Marlborough Gardening Association: Talk by Rosina Brandham: 'Joseph Paxton'
- Fri 12 Sept** 7.30-9.30pm Theatre-on-the-Hill. Kempson Rosedale Trust Talk by Doug Scott: 'The Three Peaks: Everest, K2 & Kangchenjunga'. £15 (£5 for pupils)
- Sat 13 Sept** 7pm Marl Golf Club. GWH Charity Auction. £25 (including 2-course dinner/wine/coffee) from Sound Knowledge
8pm Mary's Church Hall Folk & Country Music: Kieran Goss
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- Mon 15 Sept** 11am Ellendune Community Centre, Wroughton. Kennet DFAS Lecture by James Russell: 'Not All Came Home: British War Artists of WW2'. 01793 840 790
- 7.30pm Kennet Valley Hall. Talk by Bill King: 'The Roman Invasions! Their effect in Wiltshire'
- 15-20 Sept,** Daily 10am-4.30pm St Peter's Church. ARK Photo Exhibition
Thurs 18 Sept 7.30 Town Hall. KVAT Film: 'Captain Corelli's Mandolin' (15). £5
7.30pm St Peter's Church. Marl History Society. Lecture by Dr Terry Rogers: 'Memorable Teachers & Pupils of Marlborough's Schools'
- Sat 20 Sept** Pewsey Carnival
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- Sun 21 Sept** 8.30am Marl Common. Car Boot Sale in aid of Wiltshire Air Ambulance
7.30pm Memorial Hall, Marl Coll. Subscription Concert: The Nash Ensemble of London
- Tues 23 Sept** Town Hall. Bishop's Debate: 'War, Truth & Literature'
- 22-27 Sept** Daily 10am-4.30pm St Peter's Church. Guild of Wilts Artists Art Exhibition
- 27 Sept** 8pm St Mary's Church Hall. Folk & Country Music: Miranda Sykes and Rex Preston
- 25-29 Sept** Marlborough LitFest. Details: www.marlboroughlitfest.org

Rachel Rosedale: Society of Friends (Quakers)

An experience of Conscientious Objection

At the moment I can't listen to a news programme on the radio without some reference to World War 1 commemorations. Many friends and family have delved into their family history for reflections of their family's part in this. For my part I know that one of my grandfathers helped run a munitions factory for part of the war but I have more knowledge of my Father and World War 2.

My Father had become a Quaker and enjoyed a Quaker wedding at Jordans (Buckinghamshire) in 1936. At Jordans, in accordance with their peace testimony, Quakers would have discussed and been active in encouraging peace talks, and alternatives to war at the highest possible levels. They were not inactive. By the start of WW2 my Father had 2 small children. He worked editing the Countryman Magazine.

Quakers are generally committed to pacifism. When World War 2 broke out each had to search his soul and with the help of God find his own way forward. They held to no absolute doctrines. Some felt the only choice was to join up. Others served in less confrontational roles with the Friends Ambulance Unit, a volunteer ambulance service founded in 1914, which



Friends Ambulance Unit

worked on the front line during the first world war and was reformed in 1939 to do the same. But others, such as my Father, felt even that was a compromise, and so he was sent to court where he had to justify his position in front of a daunting panel; a very difficult, challenging time. He was successful, in that he was sentenced to market garden in the village where he lived to provide food for king and country. My parents also ran a children's nursery for evacuees from Bristol and homed two Jewish refugee families. In the village, life was difficult, especially for my mother. They were ostracised by the many whose husbands had gone off to fight. Why was her husband around?

Some people think pacifism is an easy option but pacifists feel and endure the pain of their inaction while watching what they consider to be the foolishness of their fellow men.

CIRCE'S RESTAURANT

'IT'S WRONG!' he roared, and pointed to the bill,
'Your adding up leaves much to be desired,
Your lotus fritters left us feeling ill,
And, thanks to you, our meter has expired.' -
All round the room the other guests looked tired,
Wheezing like dons who've swallowed too much wine,
Purple above tight collars, and each mired
In thoughts too deep for those who merely dine,
The golden dreams of folk, had you enquired,
Preoccupied with turning into swine.

Mark Handley

(with acknowledgements to
Alfred Lord Tennyson)

Thursday 9th October at 7.30 pm in St Peter's Church, Marlborough
"Sleepwalking into conflict?"

British and Continental attitudes on the eve of the Great War.

A lecture by David Du Croz (former Head of History at Marlborough College)
and

Michael Hart (former Head of History at Shrewsbury School)

in aid of The Merchant's House.

Tickets £10 (£7 MH Friends)

Family News from your local community, by **Audrey Peck**

Dudley Nash of South View came from an old Marlborough family who ran the farm and dairy in Elcot Lane. He was well known to Marlborough golfers. He had worked with the green keeper's team for over 30 years. He died in July and is mourned by his wife, Claire, daughters, Marie, Donna and Shar and their husbands, and grandchildren, Jordan, Summer, Paolo, Samuel, Jacob and Zach.

We lost another local man recently. **John Pinchen** was born near St. Peter's Church. After leaving the Grammar School he served his national service with the 10th Royal Hussars partly in Germany. He met his wife, Kath, while working at Garrards in Elcot Lane, spent 23 years at T. H. Whites and 11 with the ground maintenance staff at the College. The family moved to George Lane in 1961. John enjoyed cricket and swimming in his youth. He watched Swindon Town and made an occasional trip to Twickenham or Arms Park and continued to enjoy watching many sports on TV all his life. Our sympathy goes to Kath and her sons Graeme, Trevor, Brian and Colin.

Congratulations to **Daniel Cavender**, whose mother, Susan, lives in St Martins. He set himself the challenge of cycling from Rome to Great Western Hospital in aid of the hospital; he succeeded and is hoping to raise £9000. To find out more, or to donate, go to www.gwhcharitychallenge.org.

Ann and Tony Skittrall celebrated their Golden Wedding at home with the family because Tony, who was Town Clerk for many years, is in poor health. They were married on June 6th 1964 at Preshute Church with Ann's cousin and Tony's two sisters as bridesmaids. They lived in Salisbury Rd until they moved to their present home in George Lane in 1970. They enjoyed the celebration with their daughters, Rachel and Nicola and grandchildren, Poppy and Stanley.

When devolution for Scotland was being talked about in the late 70s families from Preshute Parish entered a float in the High Street carnival procession called '**Home Rule for Manton**'. Sally Cripps says several families worked together. Did they make up a Manton flag? Does anyone remember?

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### **Clarification:**

In the August edition of T&T the oral history memories of shops, which were attributed to the late Rose Rawlings, were in fact excerpts from interviews with a dozen different people.

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Currently we have some advertising space available.  
Do you know any businesses that would like to take advantage  
of the Tower & Town circulation?  
If so, ask them to contact our Advertising Manager  
(details page 28)

## News from the Churches

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### September Diary Dates:

#### Christchurch

##### Women's Fellowship

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September - Members' Meeting

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September – Rev Heather Cooper

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September – Chrissy Whittington  
(includes 'Bring & Buy')

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September – Ruth Richards

All meetings at 2.45pm in Christchurch



**Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group (MAPAG).** The next food collection is outside Waitrose on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September. Volunteers are needed for collecting; please contact Gill Mackichan, [g.machican@btinternet.com](mailto:g.machican@btinternet.com) (861629).

The next meeting of MAPAG will be on Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm at the Friends Meeting House. All are welcome. For details contact Rachel Rosedale, [rachelrosed1@gmail.com](mailto:rachelrosed1@gmail.com).

#### Marlborough Anglican Team

##### Civic Service at St Mary's

This will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September to mark the anniversary of the outbreak of World War 1. The Civic Service will coincide with The History Society's exhibition in St Mary's of photographs and other memorabilia relevant to the First World War. Open daily. Please take the opportunity to visit this free exhibition, lots of local historical information and recollections.



#### Devotion

*Hangout@devotion* continues to meet on Thursdays at 7pm. Check our website for more info on other events; [www.devotion-marlborough.co.uk](http://www.devotion-marlborough.co.uk).

devotion

**Ride and Stride** on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September (10am – 6pm) - raise money for your chosen church and the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust by visiting churches and chapels on bike, on foot or on horse-back. A good cause, lots of fun, exercise and interest, and many prizes too. It's not too late to sponsor a rider/walker: please

## News from the Churches (cont.)

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contact Keith Galpin, [audrey-keith@talktalk.net](mailto:audrey-keith@talktalk.net) (516005), or Charles Graham, [ctg100@hotmail.com](mailto:ctg100@hotmail.com) (514301) for more information.

### Christchurch

**Monthly Sunday Senior Lunch Club** gathers this month at Christchurch on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 12 noon. If you would like to come, please book through the Christchurch office by noon on Friday 12<sup>th</sup>. Cost: £7 each. Contact 513701 or [office@christchurchmarlborough.org.uk](mailto:office@christchurchmarlborough.org.uk)



**2014 Bishop's Debate:** 'War, Truth and Literature' on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 7pm at Marlborough Town Hall. From Homer to 'Call of Duty', we're told war is an adventure. Should recruiting officers tell the truth? With Gen Allan Mallinson (ret'd); Sgt Simon Harmer (RAMC), Dr Colin Irwin (conflict resolution expert) and the Very Revd June Osborne (Dean of Salisbury). Free admission; refreshments will be available.

**Filling Station** will be meeting at 7.30pm, Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September at St Peter's School when the speaker will be Sarah Stockinger.



**Rowan Williams** at St Mary's Church, (Marlborough Litfest) Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September, 6pm. Dr Williams will be looking at the contrasts between different poets' views of the First World War - Wilfred Owen, David Jones and the army chaplain, Geoffrey Studdert-Kennedy: what were the crises (of faith and hope) the war provoked in them?

The former Archbishop has been an outspoken force for justice and fairness in our society, with particularly strong views about the evils of war.

Tickets available at White Horse Bookshop or from [www.marlboroughlitfest.org](http://www.marlboroughlitfest.org); £10 adults or £3 for those in full-time education.



### Harvest at Christchurch

Celebrate harvest, including a harvest of talents, at 10.30am on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September.

## News from the Churches (cont.)

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### October Diary Dates:

#### **Marlborough Churches Together**

Invite you to join the Open Meeting on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October  
7.30pm at Christchurch.



**The Anglican Churches** will be celebrating Harvest on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October. More information can be found in the weekly church notices and October's Tower and Town.

**The Pity of War** on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00pm, St Peter's Church, Marlborough. A Reading of War Poetry with students from Marlborough College.

**Marlborough Street Angels** is a ministry to those in our town on the two Saturday nights of the Mop fairs, working to be a prayerful listening and caring presence of Christians between 9pm and midnight. We're not there to preach at people, simply to care, to listen and to help: to show the love of Jesus in practical ways. It is quite simple - the local church in action on the streets.

The volunteers have found it to be a valuable experience:-

"After an apprehensive start to the evening, I really enjoyed myself" M.H.

"I particularly enjoyed talking to the stall and ride owners" H.S.

"It provided a great stimulus to pray for the youth of our town" P.P.

"I really enjoyed the whole evening" G.H.

Mo Hill the coordinator has moved out of the area so for the Street Angels to be at the fair this year, a new co-ordinator to oversee the evenings and volunteers is needed. To find out more please contact Mo: [moj.hill@btinternet.com](mailto:moj.hill@btinternet.com) ; 01380 724725 or Alison Selby, Secretary of Marlborough Churches Together. Marlborough Churches Together are supporting this initiative.







## Marlborough Churches Together

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### Usual Sunday service times.

#### **Christchurch, New Road (Methodist)**

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 Parish Communion or Non-Eucharistic Worship

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 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday)

10.00am All Age Worship (1st Sunday)

Parish Communion, Junior Church & crèche on all other Sundays

5.30pm Informal service (except on 1st Sunday)

#### **St Thomas More, George Lane (Roman Catholic)**

11.00am Sung Mass (See also below)

**Marlborough College** Services are shown at the College Chapel

### Weekday Services

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**St Mary's** Holy Communion: 10.30am Wednesday

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

# Marlborough Church Contacts

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*Chaplain, Marlborough College*

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**The Revd Canon Andrew Studdert-Kennedy** 514357  
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St Mary's; courtesy of beenthere-donethat.org.uk

From the Registers

Baptism:

13 Jul - Jessica Scarlett Patricia Rumbold at *St Mary's*

Weddings:

26 Jul - Zoe Cook & Ryan O'Shea at *St John the Baptist, Minal*

26 Jul - Tanya Lay & Steve Binns at *St George's, Preshute*

26 Jul - Charlotte Hickinbotham & Henry Palmer at *St George's, Preshute*

9 Aug - Bryony Carberry & Nicolas Brennan at *St George's, Preshute*

Departed:

11 Jul – Steven 'Steve' John Barry (58) of 15 Cowbridge Crescent, Malmesbury
St Mary's & Kingsdown

14 Jul – Edna Mary Storey (93) of Coombe End Court, Marlborough
West Wiltshire Crematorium, Semington

14 Jul – Dudley Maurice Nash (69) of 13 Southview Place, Marlborough
St Mary's & Marlborough Cemetery

17 Jul – Robert Phillips Hill (74) of Eagle House, The Green, Marlborough
St Mary's & Kingsdown Crematorium

31 Jul – Arthur Frederick Staynings (92) of 4 Churchill Court, Marlborough
Kingsdown Crematorium

6 Aug – Sheila Mary Williams (76) of 22 The Thorns, Marlborough
Kingsdown Crematorium

2014/2015 Marlborough College Concert Series

World Class Musicians in Marlborough

Programme for the coming year includes

The Nash Ensemble of London, Wells Cathedral Choir, John Lill (piano),
Grimethorpe Colliery Band and Southbank Sinfonia.

More information from www.marlboroughconcertseries.org

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Every Month

<i>What's On</i>	Karen Osborne: karenos64@btinternet.com 36 St Martins, SN8 1AS	514364
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<i>News from the Churches</i>	Alison Selby: alison@crossmead.net Crossmead, Kingsbury St SN8 1HU	511128
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<i>Family News</i>	Audrey Peck: rogandaud@aol.com 7 Castle Court, Marlborough SN8 1XG	289065
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Contributions and comments from readers are always welcome. Please send articles and letters to the Editor; other notices or announcements to the Compiler. All items for inclusion in next month's *Tower and Town* must be submitted by **Tuesday 9 September**.

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

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St George's, Preshute and Mustard Seed.

Annual subscription £5 for 11 copies a year delivered to your address.
Please ring Rosemary Spiller (512338)