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Preshute Primary School

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**DUNCAN
MORRIS**
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TOWER^{AND}TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

NUMBER 699 DECEMBER 2019/JANUARY 2020



Preshute Primary School

We were delighted to be asked to contribute to the December edition of Tower and Town and are thrilled to be able to share some of our children's super work with our local community. It has given the children the opportunity to become published writers and authors.

Our school motto is 'Live Life, Love Learning' and we believe this is reflected in all that we do. All of our topics are launched in an exciting way to engage the children in their learning and promote curiosity, such as the mysterious egg that was discovered hidden on our school field or the CCTV footage that showed a box shaking and growling in the middle of the night!!

We have included work from children across the school, including reflective poetry for Armistice Day from Class 6 (10-11yrs); poetry based on The Highwayman poem by Alfred Noyes from Class 5 (ages 9-10yrs); Reflective artwork from across the school; and letters based on The Three Little Pigs from Class 2 (6-7yrs).

We hope that you enjoy the celebration of our work and understand why we are justifiably proud of them. We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at Preshute Primary School.

Claire Hann-Perkins (Interim Head) and Mary Mundy (Deputy)

Cover: The Creation (see also p23)

Memorial

by Tamsin

Fields of blood;
Uniforms covered with mud.
Under bright blue sky,
Is where the poppies lie.
Green grass grows and blows in the wind.
Soldier's grief,
Their mourning is not sweet.
Millions of people turned to flowers,
but they will never be forgotten.
Dead, that is they are.
Alone in the dark.
But have many a friend still above,
Army, Navy and Airforce.
Different roles,
But fighting as one.
Some survived, many did not.
But if you want to see them – have a look,
They are in Flanders Fields.



Gunshots

by Alfie

Gunshots echoed in our heroes' ears.
Though gone, they are still here in our hearts.
And our hearts are where they will always stay.
So take a moment to remember them, for just one day.
The Great War brought so much grief,
But the honour of our heroes is never deceased.
The soldier's service was in the name of peace.
And their sacrifice deserves respect.
Two minutes of silence is our way to pay them back.
For in Flanders Fields a poppy is the memorial,
Of a veteran on a journey for peace.



Remember

by Natalija

One shot,
One kill.
Above the graves, people grieve
For those who fought in the war.
Death was no secret anymore.

Two shots,
Two kills.
Poppies grew in Flanders Fields,
Unlike some innocent teenage soldiers,
They sacrificed their lives for us,
Let us pay our respects and not be selfish.

Three shots,
Three kills.
Be respectful, some died at a snail's pace,
Some died fast, some died slow.
Be kind to those who have lost,
11 o'clock, 11th Month,
Two minutes silence for everyone!



Time

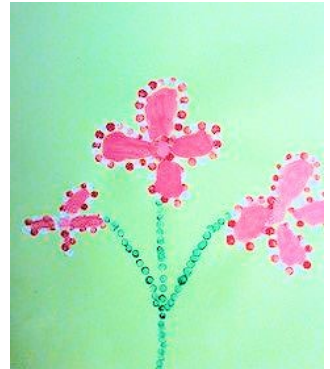
by John

The time has come to reflect on the dead,
who sacrificed the gift of life
For the greater good.

We must honour our dying heroes,
Who have almost gone.
Their lives shattered by the bang of a gun.
These lives were not all wasted,
For we have won the Great War.

But only two decades later, another war started upon hatred.
All the same.... many lost,
But God stayed with us through til the end.

So let us take two minutes of our time,
For that is the least that they deserve
For what they did for us and our country.



Letters to the Big Bad Wolf

by Year 2

Dear Wolf,

I am writing to you about eating the little pigs because you don't just have to eat pigs! Caution! Sometimes pigs are muddy and you don't want to eat mud because mud has germs and germs make you ill! I like the cute pigs because they are our friends and you could try to eat something else because there are other things that you could eat.

Thank you for reading our letter, From Eliza

Dear Mr Wolf,

I am writing to you because I am telling you NOT to eat the little pigs because you could eat to something else like a burger. I heard that there is a bakery near you. Oh it's so good there! You should definitely go there. It is so brilliant!

Thank you for reading my letter.

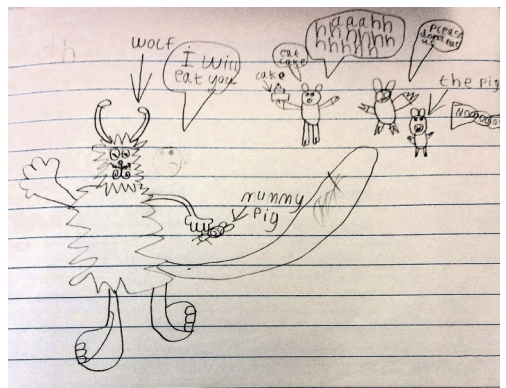
Yours sincerely, Isla

Dear Mr Wolf,

Please don't eat the little pigs because they might be muddy and if you eat mud you will be very poorly so don't eat those muddy pigs! Don't eat the pigs because they are friendly and kind. Pigs are not always tasty so try to eat some chocolate cake instead from the cake shop down the road as they sell some of the best chocolate cake in the World. So don't eat the gentle pigs. The pigs might have laid a trap for you! The pigs are nice and friendly so don't eat the pigs!

Now Wolf I hope you don't eat any pigs!

Yours sincerely, Kasper



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Albert House,
The Parade, Marlborough, SN8 1NE.

Registered Office: Winchcombe House,
37, New Park Street, Devizes, SN10 1DT.

Apartments and houses are now available to buy in four well designed, purpose-built developments for the over-55's, Town Mill in Marlborough and three in or around London.



Each property is equipped with 24-hour emergency systems and every development benefits from beautiful landscaped gardens, communal facilities such as lounge, guest suites, resident house/estate managers and on-site parking.

Availability and more information about each development - Osprey Court (NW3 7AA) near West Hampstead, Heathside (NW11 7SB) near Golders Green, Challoner Court (BR2 0AB) in Bromley and Town Mill (SN8 1NS) in Marlborough - can be viewed on the website www.ospreymc.co.uk



For further enquiries, please contact Lorraine Wash on (020) 8569 8364 or email lorraine.wash@ospreymc.co.uk



The Highwayman

by Class 5

The Highwayman

by Elliott

He'd a French red beret, covering up his left eye.
A pocket full of cash, filled up to the rim.
His crimson, red cloak was shining and gleaming in the yellow sun.
He rode with a gallop across the winding path.
His wooden rifle alight!
His emerald necklace, a twinkle under the starry sky.

Over the charcoal path, he galloped and swerved in the jet-black graveyard.
He thumped his pale hand on the caramel wood door, but all was strongly
locked and impossible to enter.
He looked, and who did he see standing there..... but the spooky vicar's
walnut-eyed son.
Leo, the vicar's son, combing his tawny brown hair.

Thump-Thump-Thump!
Had they heard it?
The horse hooves clapping clear, thump-thump-thump-thump in the
distance!
Were they deaf? They did not hear.
Down the trail of the pearl-white mountain.
The Highwayman came sprinting, sprinting, sprinting!
In his basil green coat, he looked towards the door.
Leo stood up tall and strong.



The Highwayman

by Casey

He'd a hat as red as a rose on his forehead, such little buttons at his chin,
A jacket of bright blood and baggy shorts of flaming fire.
They fitted like the waves of the ocean: his boots were up to the ankle.
And he rode with a deafening pistol,
His sharp sword stabs every innocent,
His radiant smile glistened under the subsiding sun.

Over the butterscotch bridge he stomped and stamped into the kingdom's
lapis-blue basement,
He swerved and curved but found no gold,
He searched and lurched but discovered some feet: who did he see standing
there?
But the shortest man in the World,
He wore a crimson zip-up jacket and short teal trousers.

Clip-clop, clip-clop! Had they heard it?
The intense ear-piercing sound of the horse's hooves.
Clippity-cloppity, clippity-cloppity, in the dark.
Were they deaf that they did not hear?
Up the street of the sunlit hill, under the tunnel
The Highwayman came trotting!
The salmon jackets looked to their lady, who was taller than a skyscraper.

Back, he heaved his foot into panting horse's stirrup, he announced a curse
to the sky,
With the snowy street steaming behind him and his deadly head high in the
sky.
Candy-red were his bright spurs, in the light of the moon; merlot-red was
his cushioning coat,



When they chased him away on the busy roads,
Down like a dead animal on the highway,
And he splashed in his scarlet blood on the highway,
With the little buttons still at his chin.

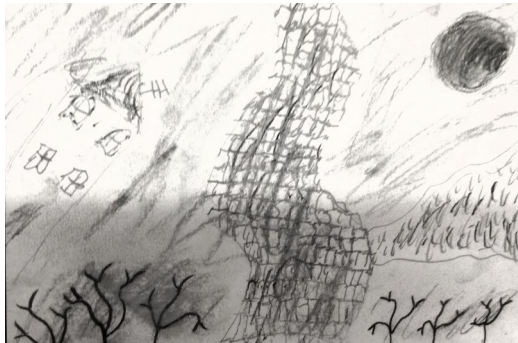
The Highwayman

by Beatrice

He'd a three-cornered hat on his head;
A bag of wild hare skin and a robe of ruby-red velvet;
A straggly beard upon his chin.
The trees were like old witches hair, the forest was dark and dim,
But on he rode, with a determined trot – his horse's hooves clopped.
He rode with the determined trot, under the murky sky.

As a fiery dawn broke,
The path opening grew nearer,
The Highwayman's trot became slower
As the path became clearer.
Suddenly, the King's men jumped out – they knew he was going to rob;
But the Highwayman's crimson cloak flew back,
He was galloping-galloping-galloping into the honey-tinted sky.

Down the muddy banks, he rode
He knew he was done for,
He drowned himself in the river filled with lethal nails and planks of
splintered wood.
And he drowned himself in the sunlight: the caramel-tinted rays of sunlight
He drowned himself in the sunlight,
All in his love for Bess.





Class 2 recording a radio show

Go to <http://www.preshute.wilts.sch.uk> to link to listen to the radio shows.



Save the Children's inspirational founder, Eglantyne Jebb, taught at St Peter's School (now the Library) in the 1890s. There you can see a blue plaque in her name.

In 1919, horrified by the desperate plight of starving children in the Balkans post WW1, this amazing woman protested in public and campaigned for the post war blockade to be lifted. She founded the charity, travelled to set up soup kitchens in war torn Europe and influenced governments to save the lives of vulnerable children. She went on to write *The Rights of the Child*; to care and protection, an education, and support to realise their potential and contribute to society. This document was the foundation for the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child. She said 'nothing is impossible unless we say it to be so!' When she died, at just 52, she had worked tirelessly to make the world a better place for children.

The work that began in England has spread across the world with Save the Children organisations raising funds and employing staff to support children in their own country. The charity acts immediately in time of disaster staying on in country to improve long term life chances for children.

In the U.K., Save the Children successfully lobbied government in 1930s to introduce school milk, in 1950s they started the first playgroups and later family centres in prisons. The FAST programme has improved relations between parents/ teachers/children, mentors help primary age literacy, advisors work on nursery school curriculum development and the charity makes emergency payments for essentials to families in time of crisis with staff and volunteers working, as our founder taught us, to improve life chances for children.

On Sunday, 15th December at 3pm in St Mary's Church, Marlborough there will be an all age Service of Thanksgiving & Celebration for Save the Children's Centenary with Rt. Revd. Andrew Rumsey, Bishop of Ramsbury. Please join us!

8-Seater Mini-bus, Marlborough to Devizes

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Marlborough Concert Orchestra
Saturday 7 December 2019 at 7:30 pm
St Mary's Church, Marlborough

Conductor Roselise Gentile Leader Edward Judge

Khachaturian Spartacus
Sibelius Karelia Suite
Schumann Cello Concerto
Soloist Caterina Isaia



Tickets £10 adults £2 students
available from Sound Knowledge, Hughenden Yard or on the door
Licensed bar, and raffle in aid of West Berkshire MENCAP.
Registered charity 1113775

Ogbourne Primary
Christmas Fair

Sat 7th Dec 1-4pm

High Street, Ogbourne St George, SN8 1SU



Gifts
Raffle
Fun Games
Mulled Wine
School Choir
Santa's Grotto
Craft Activities
Hot Dogs & Cakes
Homemade Mince Pies

£1 entry adults. Kids free.
All proceeds go to Ogbourne Primary

Marlborough Choral Society

Magnificat

Rutter – Magnificat
Vaughan Williams –
Fantasia on Christmas
Carols
and festive songs

Saturday, 14th December
7.30pm
St Mary's Church
Marlborough

Tickets: £10 (students £2, under 16s free)
Available from choir members,
Sound Knowledge, at the door or via
www.marlboroughchoralsociety.org.uk
Refreshments during the interval

Marlborough
Christmas

Festive Gifts,
Food & Drink,
Choirs, Santa



Saturday 14th December
10-3pm
Marlborough College, SN8 1PA



Congratulations to **Caroline and Christopher Loveday** who are delighted to have become grandparents to Jainaba Rosemary Jatta, a baby daughter for their daughter, Lilli and her husband, Kebba. They met in Gunjur, Kebba's home town, and now live in Marlborough, so Jainaba is a true 'link baby'

Thank you to Rosemary Hawes for the next piece:

Many people in the area will have known **Mary Roberts** who died on October 2nd. One of several contributions that Mary made to the town was to organise the Christmas Cards in St. Peter's Church. She did this for a number of years, with the great help of her husband, Peter. During the latter part of her life, Mary wrote two books. "Farm of my Childhood" (published in 1991) is about Bedfordshire and the farm she was brought up on in Priestly. Peter and Mary were married there and came to Rockley in 1964. Subsequently she wrote another book, "Beyond a Cottage Window" which was published in 2003 and tells of the everyday happenings of Mary's and Peter's lives in Wiltshire.

Mary was much loved and will be greatly missed, as shown by the large number of people who came to her thanksgiving service at Ogbourne St. Andrew. The sun shone and the church was packed.

Thank you, Mary, for being a good friend to so many people.

Finally, we raise a toast to **Brenda and Maurice Smith** who celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in November with a party for family and friends at Marlborough Golf Club. They were married in Avebury Congregational Chapel in November 1969.

TOWER AND TOWN NEEDS YOU!

We are looking for one or two people to replace personnel who have done long stints with Tower and Town and would like to hand on the baton:

Compiler of the monthly diary of events
Advertising administrator

Please apply to chairman@towerandtown.org.uk for descriptions of what's involved.

What's On

Regular events

Every Monday

- 6pm Recreation Ground, Salisbury Road. Bowls Club.
- 7.30pm Christchurch. Marlborough Choral Society.
- 7.45-9pm Bell-ringing practice at St George's, Preshute.

Every Tuesday

- 10.30-12noon Mildenhall Village Hall. Music and Movement for the Mind, for people living with dementia & family carers. Alzheimer's Support 01380 739055 or www.alzheimerswiltshire.org.uk
- 2-3.30pm Savernake Hospital. Carers' Support Café. (2nd Tuesday)
- 2.45pm The Parlour, Christchurch. Women's Fellowship. (2nd & 4th Tuesdays)
- 7.30-9pm Bell-ringing practice at St Mary's, Marlborough.

Every Wednesday

- 10am Jubilee Centre. Drop-in, Tea/Coffee. 12.30 Lunch.
- 10.15-11.45am St Peter's Church. Carers' Support Cafe. (Last Wednesday of month).
- 12.30pm St George's, Preshute. Teddy Prayers & Picnic. A special service for U5s & carers followed by a picnic lunch. (First Wednesday)
- 1.30-3.30pm Town Hall. Sunshine Club for over 55s.
- 7.30-9pm Bell-ringing practice at St John's. Mildenhall.
- 7.30-9.30pm St Mary's Church Hall. Marlborough Community Choir.

Every Thursday

- 10-30-12noon Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. Music for the Mind. Alzheimer's Support. 01225 776481. (Every Thursday during term-time).
- 7-8.30pm Wesley Hall, Oxford St. Hangout & Devotion. Youth Club.

Every Friday

10-12 noon Christchurch C

Every Friday and Saturday (1

10am-4pm 132 High Street
Museum. £3 (u 16s free).

By Appointment

Library. Marlborough & D
Drop-in advice. Help line:

December calendar

2nd (Monday)

12 for 12.30pm Kennet Valley
Embroiderers' Guild.

Christmas Lunch and Surp

4th (Wednesday)

7.30pm Wesley Hall, Oxford
Social Evening.

5th (Thursday)

1pm Mildenhall Village Ha
Lunch and AGM. 861279.

6th (Friday)

5-9pm Village Hall, Clyffe
Christmas Fair. Entrance £

7th (Saturday)

1-4pm Ogbourne St George
Christmas Fair. Entry £1,

7.30pm St Mary's Church.
Orchestra Concert. Soloist
students (£2). See page 12.

11am-3pm. Crofton Pump
Open Day.

7th, 8th, 14th, 15th, 20th, 21st, 22

11am & 1pm Hungerford
canal barge 'The Rose of H
Christmas & his Elves. £9,
booked. 01380 721279.

9th (Monday)

11am Ellendune Commun
Arts Society: Kennet and S

Crush Hall. Food bank.
1st April-22nd December
t SN8 1HN. Marlborough

District Dyslexia Association.
07729 452143.

Valley Hall. Marlborough

Surprise Speaker.

rd Street. WI. Christmas

all. Floral Club. Christmas

Pypard SN4 7PX. St Peter's
£1, u.12s free.

ge Primary School.
children free. See page 12.

Marlborough Concert
Caterina Isaia (cello). £10,

ing Station. Winter Works

nd, 23rd, 24th

Wharf.1 hour trips on the
'Hungerford' with Father
. Tickets must be pre-

ity Centre Wroughton. The
Swindon. Lecture by Eveline

Eaton: 'The Bayeux Tapestry: The World's Oldest
Comic Strip'. Guests welcome £7. 01793 840790.

7.30pm Kennet Valley Hall Lockeridge. National
Trust Association Christmas Social.

11th (Wednesday)

12 noon Marlborough College: End of Term

7.45pm Wesley Hall, Oxford Street. Gardening
Association. Talk by Val Compton: 'It's a Grass
Verge'.

14th (Saturday)

10-3pm Marl. College. Cancer Research Fair. See p 12

4pm Marlborough College Chapel. Carol Service in aid
of Hope & Homes for Children. 562777.

7.30pm St Mary's Church. Marlborough Choral
Society. Concert: 'Magnificat'. £10 (students £2, u16's
free). See page 12.

15th (Sunday)

12 noon (first race). Barbury Racecourse. International
Point-to-Point.

3pm St Mary's Church. Service of Thanksgiving and
Celebration for Save the Children's Centenary with
The Rt Revd Andrew Rumsey, Bishop of Ramsbury.

7.30pm Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. Film:
'Rocketman'. £6.

17th (Tuesday)

8pm Town Hall. Marlborough Folk Roots. Concert: St
Agnes Fountain. £20 from Sound Knowledge.

19th (Thursday)

6pm (drinks) 7pm (service). Marlborough College
Chapel. A Celebration of Christmas. Tickets from
WHB in support of the Stroke Association.

20th (Friday)

St John's Academy: End of Term 2.

January 2020 Calendar

6th (Monday)

St John's Academy: Start of Term 3.

7th (Tuesday)

6-9pm Marlborough College: Start of Lent Term.

8th (Wednesday)

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

7.45pm Wesley Hall, Oxford Street. Gardening Association. Talk by Nicky Heal: 'Creations with Willow'.

10th (Friday)

7.30pm Assembly Rooms, Town Hall. Talk by Michael William Pitkeathly MBE: 'Life on Board an operational Hunter Killer submarine during the cold war'. £10
www.eventbrite.co.uk

16th (Thursday)

7.30pm St Peter's Church. History Society. Talk by Rupert Wielock: 'Churchill's Abandoned Prisoners'. Non-members £5; students half price.

19th (Sunday)

3pm Marlborough College Memorial Hall. Concert: Martin Roscoe (piano). £20 (£10 students) 892566.

20th (Monday)

11am Ellendune Community Centre Wroughton. The Arts Society: Kennet and Swindon. Lecture by Julia Musgrave: 'Caravaggio: Murderer or Genius?'. Guests welcome £7. 01793 840790.

25th (Saturday)

11am-3pm. Crofton Pumping Station. Winter Works Open Day.26th (Sunday)

7.30pm St Peter's Church. Concert: Timon Staehler (piano). £10 (£8 Members of St Peter's Trust).

28th (Tuesday)

7.30pm Bouverie Hall, Pewsey. The Arts Society Pewsey Vale. Lecture by Sarah Dunant: 'The Creative Courtesan'. Visitors welcome. £7. Membership Secretary: 07775 683163.

31st (Friday)

from 7pm Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge SN8 4EL. Ffestiniog & Welsh Highland Railway: 'The Best Way to See Snowdonia'. £10 www.eventbrite.co.uk

Tower and Town Online Gallery

Tower and Town plans to add a **GALLERY** section to its online offering, starting 2020. We invite **artwork, still photo and video** contributions from our readers and will publish a selection each month as chosen by our editorial team. Please send your contributions to chairman@towerandtown.org.uk .

Christmas is coming. You heard it here first (!) and may I offer a tiny word of advice for gentleman readers? 15.00 on 24 December is not really the optimum time to begin one's Christmas shopping. All the best stuff has been taken (and the retail assistant's good will is evaporating). Just saying.

It's cold, it's dark, and if you're anything like me it's all teeth-gritting busyness in the run-up to You Know What – and then on Christmas Eve that little lad at King's College Chapel sings *Once in Royal David's City* and everything feels OK again. *I Saw Eternity the Other Night* by Timothy Day is a history of the development of the choral traditions and style. Scholarly in the research, but readable and anecdotal, just the thing for musical friends or family.

Books make ideal gifts (I would say that), even for people who 'don't read'. If you have a hard-to-buy-for person on your list, may I suggest any of the following. *The Disboom Cookery Book* for cooks, recipes from the restaurant chain and descriptions of Bombay – useful, interesting and pretty! To dip into there's a new volume of *Lunch with the FT*, forty-two interviews with a range of people (the famous, the important in their field and, to me at least, the ??). Artists, architects and travellers will like *Soviet Metro Stations*, especially if they've already got *Soviet Bus Stops, Vols I & II* by the same author. *Brilliant Maps* by Ian Wright is a must for those 'did you know?' fact-addicts. If you want a sweet, poignant story, read *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi. What would you change if you had the opportunity to go back in time? If you enjoy Antoine Laurain, then try this slim little novel.

Finally, Priya Basil's *Be My Guest* is a contemplation of eating and hospitality, the importance and limits of the roles of guest and host, the sharing of food and time. Not much evokes more emotion, positive and negative, than food. The book is a call for more kindness, warmth and welcome to friends and strangers, and as such it's a perfect read for Advent.

Whether your Christmas involves stirring industrial quantities of gravy, or spending time alone, try to take some time to relax with a good book. All good wishes for the season, from all of us at the WHB.

Swindon & District Samaritans Myths Buster

We're keen to explode some myths that might exist about how Samaritans operate. These include:

The Myth

The Truth

You need to be suicidal to contact Samaritans.

We encourage people to reach out for emotional support as early as possible, when times are tough.

It costs money to contact the Samaritans.

Calls are free to 116 123 from both landlines and mobiles – including pay-as-you-go. There's no need to have any credit or call allowance.

Callers need to be near a branch.

It doesn't matter where you are in the UK, calls to 116 123 will be picked up by a trained volunteer from one of our 201 branches at any time of the day or night every single day of the year.

Samaritans talk as much as callers.

When someone rings, a volunteer will answer with something like "Samaritans, can I help you?" and will then listen. If it's difficult to speak immediately, then we'll wait – we won't hang up.

Contact has to be by phone.

Samaritans also provides emotional support by email and text. Text 07725 909090 or emails should be sent to jo@samaritans.org.

Samaritans are anonymous.

We are available to provide face to face support from our branch at 6 Curtis Street in Swindon. Opening hours are on our branch website (www.samaritans.org/branches/swindon)

We offer advice.

However we are contacted, we provide emotional support to anyone and never advice, regardless of the circumstances. We offer emotional support without any pressure. We do not judge people and whatever we are told is confidential.

Samaritans are not needed in today's world.

Every six seconds, we respond to a call for help – we're here for anyone who needs someone.

If anyone needs someone to talk to, we listen. We won't judge or make decisions – our opinions or advice are not important for the call. We focus on thoughts and feelings and may ask questions to explore those feelings further.

Our vision is that fewer people die by suicide - that's why we do what we do.

Maggie Gill

My wife, Jane, our daughter Hannah and I are looking forward to our first Marlborough Christmas. We arrived here from Broadstairs, Kent in August and began working at Christchurch Methodist Church in September. We have been warmly welcomed by all those whom we have met from Christchurch, the other churches, our neighbourhood, the town and beyond.

As we have experienced Wiltshire hospitality, I am sure that a warm welcome awaits everyone who visits Marlborough in the next few weeks. Friends and strangers will be welcomed in the shops, cafes, restaurants, pubs, social centres and, of course, all of the churches. The churches are looking forward to welcoming you as people gather to sing carols, listen to choirs and hear the good news of the birth of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, our Lord, Saviour and Friend.

Welcome, hospitality and love are at the heart of the events of that first Christmas. Mary bore Jesus in her womb, and is known in some parts of the world as the “Christ-bearer”. Joseph, who was engaged to Mary and did not know what to do when he discovered that she was pregnant, welcomed Mary into his family after receiving a message from God in a dream. When Joseph went with Mary to Bethlehem to register in the Roman census, his family welcomed them into their home. The guest room may have been full, but Joseph’s family did the best they could and made them warm and comfortable in the animals’ room in the house. The shepherds and the Magi were also welcomed into the humble dwelling to see the new born King.

They saw the baby in a makeshift crib in the manger, worshipped him and left praising God.

As we celebrate Christmas this year, we are all invited once again to look into the manger, see the child and leave praising God knowing that “God so loved the world that he sent his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life”, (John 3:16). The child grew up and showed us the way to God, our heavenly Father. He died on the cross and rose again to bring us forgiveness, life in all its fulness, eternal life. When we realise this, we receive the greatest welcome of all, as God welcomes us, like a father welcomes home his long lost child.

This life changing relationship with God begins with the birth of Jesus. That’s worth celebrating. Happy Christmas!

May you know the welcome of the town’s churches this Christmas, but most of all may you know the welcome, peace and love of God through meeting Jesus.

Marlborough Churches Together

Usual Sunday Service times

Christchurch, New Road (Methodist)

- 9.00am Service with Communion (1st Sunday)
- 10.30am Morning Service with Junior Church and crèche

Society of Friends, Friends Meeting House, The Parade

- 10.30am Meeting for Worship

St George's, Preshute (C of E)

- 8.00am Holy Communion (1st and 3rd Sunday)
- 10.00am All Age Service (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 and 3rd Sunday)

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

- 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP on 4th Sunday)
- 10.00am All Age Worship (1st Sunday): Parish Communion and Junior Church and crèche on all other Sundays
- 5.30pm Informal service except on 1st Sunday.

St Thomas More, George Lane (Roman Catholic)

- 11.00am Sung Mass (See also below)

Marlborough College Services are shown at the College Chapel

Weekday Services

St Mary's Holy Communion: 10.30am Wednesday

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

St George's 4.30pm Weds: Tea Time followed by Evening Prayer
12.30 pm (1st Wednesday): Teddy Prayers & Picnic, a special service for U5s & carers followed by a picnic lunch

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FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms - we welcome:

- 17 November Edith Brae Selwood, Ellie Helen Collings and Bobby Benjamin Henry Collings at St Mary's
- 24 November Joshua Maxwell Taylor at St Mary's

Funerals - we pray for the families of:

- 13 September Colin Arthur Wills (75) of Manton Close, Marlborough
North Wilts Crematorium, Royal Wootton Bassett and St George's, Preshute
- 30 September Peter Stanley Beauchamp White (79) of High Street Manton
St George's, Preshute and Marlborough Cemetery
- 18 October Olive Mary Lavis (86) of Elcot Close, Marlborough
North Wilts Crematorium, Royal Wootton Bassett
- 29 October Margaret Elizabeth Smith (84) of Savernake View Care Home, Marlborough
St Mary's and Marlborough Cemetery
- 1 November Frederick George Chessall (97) of Isbury Road, Marlborough
North Wilts Crematorium, Royal Wootton Bassett

Big Forest Find at Savernake Forest

On the 5th of October, Forestry England staff and volunteers held the Big Forest Find at Savernake Forest.

Throughout the day, guided walks and family activities investigated a wide variety of wildlife in the forest, from lichens, fungi and veteran trees to minibeasts, birds and bats. The team were thrilled to be joined by local wildlife experts who led these engaging and informative activities, including birdwatcher Trevor Pinchen, fungi enthusiast Fred Gillam, Hayley Herridge of Buglife, Paul Rutter of Plantlife and Wiltshire Bat Group members Gareth Harris and Lisa Wade. Attendance on the day was fantastic, with 145 visitors of all ages taking part in these walks and activities. A standout species recorded during the event was the rare and elusive barbastelle bat, which was picked up on bat detectors during the last walk of the day. Being an autumnal event, fungi were a key highlight of the day and the fungi walk was one of the most popular.

Forestry England staff from across West District were joined by ten volunteers, including expert walk guides and volunteer facilitators who recorded wildlife observations, collected visitor feedback and generally helped to ensure the walks and activities ran smoothly. Many of these volunteers were new to Forestry England and several are now keen to get involved in other projects. It was fantastic to have so much support, many thanks to those volunteers who gave up their time to help deliver the event and to all the visitors who came along and took part. The team received lots of positive feedback, with many visitors expressing an interest in attending similar events in the future and telling us that taking part in the Big Forest Find has increased their appreciation and knowledge of forest wildlife.

One of the Big Forest Find's key aims was to encourage members of the public to record their wildlife observations using the free iNaturalist app. This was very successful at Savernake with 231 observations uploaded to the app to date. Behind the scenes, keen volunteers are working through these observations and helping to identify each species.

Abby Parravani, Volunteer Coordinator
West England Forest District, Forestry England



Lichen



Bird-ringing

The Creation Story: Illustrations

by Class 1

See also the Cover Picture.



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CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2019

**All the churches of Marlborough wish you a very
Happy Christmas and warmly invite you to worship with us.**

Sunday, 1st December

6.00pm Advent Carol Service at Christchurch (MCT)

Sunday, 15th December

10.30am Carol Service (Christchurch, Marlborough)

4.00pm Carol Service (St John the Baptist, Minal)

Wednesday 18th December

12.30pm Quieter Christmas Service (St George's, Preshute)

Sunday, 22nd December

5.00pm Carol Service (St Mary's, Marlborough)

6.00pm Candle-lit Carol Service (St George's, Preshute)

Monday, 23rd December

3.00pm Teddy Prayers Sing-Along Nativity (St George's, Preshute)

Christmas Eve – Tuesday, 24th December

3.00pm Crib Service (St Mary's, Marlborough)

3.00pm Crib Service (St George's Preshute)

4.00pm Family Mass, Carols and Blessing of Crib (St Thomas More)

5.00pm Village Nativity - starting at The Horseshoe Inn (Minal)

9.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass: Carols from 8.30pm (St Thomas More)

9.00pm Midnight at Bethlehem - Pewsey Methodist Church

10.00pm First Communion of Christmas (St George's, Preshute)

11.15pm Midnight Communion (St Mary's, Marlborough)

Christmas Day – Wednesday, 25th December

8.00am Holy Communion (St Mary's, Marlborough)

8.00am Holy Communion (St George's, Preshute)

9.00am Christmas Mass (Holy Family Church, Pewsey)

9.30am Family Communion (St John the Baptist, Minal)

10.00am Family Communion (St Mary's, Marlborough)

10.00am Family Communion (St George's, Preshute)

10.30am All Age Worship for Christmas (Christchurch, Marlborough)

10.30am Meeting for Worship (Friends' Meeting House, Marlborough)

11.00am Christmas Mass (St Thomas More, Marlborough)

Sunday, 29th December

8.00am Holy Communion (St Mary's, Marlborough)

10.00am Team Parish Communion (St Mary's, Marlborough)

10.30am Section Service (Christchurch, Marlborough)

11.00am Sunday Mass (St Thomas More, Marlborough)

News from the Churches

Carol and Christmas Services - please see previous page (page 25) for the dates and times for the individual churches.

All Souls' Update

The ecumenical All Souls' Service in November was a very moving occasion which is appreciated by friends and families of those who attend. We give thanks to Janneke Blokland for organising the service this year and to all the clergy and lay people within Marlborough Churches Together who offer support and care to those bereaved.



Christmas Hampers for local families

Many of us will have started our Christmas shopping, but not everyone is in a position to do so. As in previous years, we would like to provide some hampers for families who don't have much extra to spend. Drop off points for donations can be found at Christchurch or Marlborough Anglican Team Office (9am-1pm, weekdays). The cut off date for donations is Tuesday 10th December. For more information please contact Janneke (jblokland@gmail.com / 892291).

Marlborough Churches Together Advent Service

Start the journey through Advent at our ecumenical Carol Service starting at 6.00pm in Christchurch, Marlborough on Sunday 1st December.

Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group (MAPAG)

Meets at The Friends' Meeting House, The Parade, Marlborough, 7.30pm on Monday 2nd December when we will be joined by visiting speaker: Louis Shortall, Rough Sleeper Team Leader and Project Co-ordinator for Wiltshire Council. Next year's date for your diary is: Monday 6th January 2020 at 7.30pm. These are open meetings and all are very welcome.

In December St Mary's Church will be hosting:

7 th	7.30pm	Marlborough Concert Orchestra
10 th	6.00pm	Mencap Carol Service
12 th	9.15am	Marlborough St Mary's School Carol Service
14 th	7.30pm	Marlborough Choral Society
15 th	3.00pm	Centenary Service Save the Children founder, Eglantyne Jebb
18 th	6.00pm	Beer and Carols
19 th	7.00pm	St John's School Celebration

Please check church notices for more details.

Women's Fellowship All meetings at 2.45pm in Christchurch

December 2019	January 2020	February 2020
10 th Advent Reading	<i>No Meetings in January</i>	11 th Tea and chat
17 th Carols and mince pies		



**Marlborough
Anglican Team**



Marlborough Churches Together Fraternal Meetings

are due to take place on Tuesday 3rd December at 12.15pm at Friends' Meeting House and Wednesday 15th January 2020 at 12.45pm at The Rectory, Rawlingswell Lane. These meetings are open, please come along and join us or speak to the clergy for more information.

Monthly Sunday Lunch Club

The Sunday Lunch Club will be held on 15th December starting at 12.15pm in Christchurch, cost £8.00 for a two course meal and coffee. Please book Sunday 19th January 2020 Lunch Club into your diary. To reserve a place please contact the Church Office at Christchurch: 513701.

Beer and Carols at St Mary's

6-7.30pm on Wednesday 18th December. Carols around the piano, local ale, mulled wine and mince pies. All welcome, admission free. Donations for The Devizes Foodbank.



Teddy Prayers Sing-Along Nativity

3.00pm on Monday 23rd December at St George's Preshute. Suitable for under 5s and their parents/carers. Contact Sue Elks (susanelks@rocketmail.com) for more information.

Foodbank

The drop-in centre at Christchurch is open every Friday morning, as a collection point for those with Foodbank vouchers or call in to find out more. Don't forget those in need this winter; collection boxes for Foodbank donations are available in our churches, Waitrose and Tesco in Marlborough.

Methodist Covenant Service

The Covenant Service will be held at Christchurch on Sunday 5th January 2020 at 10.30am.



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: 18th - 25th January 2020

The materials for the 2020 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by the Christian churches in Malta and Gozo (Christians Together in Malta). On 10th February many Christians in Malta celebrate the Feast of the Shipwreck of St Paul, marking and giving thanks for the arrival of Christian faith on these islands. The reading from the Acts of the Apostles used for the feast is the text chosen for this year's Week of Prayer. <https://ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer> - check out church notices for further information.

Book Group

The next Mustard Seed book group will be on Monday 20th January starting at 7.30pm. The book for discussion will be Anne Atkins novel: Age of Elegance. All welcome.

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<i>News from the Churches</i>	Alison Selby	church.news@towerandtown.org.uk Crossmead, Kingsbury St, SN8 1HU	511128
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<i>Family News</i>	Jessy Pomfret	family.news@towerandtown.org.uk	
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Contributions and comments from readers are welcome. Please send articles and letters to the Monthly Editor or the Editorial Coordinator, other notices or announcements to the compiler. All items for the February issue by Tuesday 14th January please.

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