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THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

NUMBER 687 NOVEMBER 2018



Remember

One hundred years ago this month the guns fell silent - guns that had raged and roared for over four years across large parts of the whole continent of Europe and further afield as well. This issue is dedicated to the memory of all those, especially from the neighbourhood of Marlborough, who fought and died and survived in the Great War.

There is inevitably a bit of History to remind us of what went on and why 1914-1918: Michael Hart has given us a very clear and concise assessment of what it was all about; I have attempted to explain why it went on so long and was so destructive; and Allan Mallinson explores the issues around the end of the war. Barney Rosedale reminds us of the part the Quakers played one hundred years ago; Andrew Ross has unearthed from the archives a picture of Marlborough on November 11th 1918; and Jane Nicholson recalls the impact a visit to Western Front had on her four years ago.

To bring the focus of this issue to bear on local people, I have included four stories from the parishes of Minal, Preshute, St Mary's and St Peter's from one hundred years ago. The names of those from here who sacrificed everything are inscribed in our churches and churchyards, as well as on the town memorial.

In addition to the many parades and services that will mark the centenary of the Armistice, there are many events locally to commemorate this historic occasion - you will find these itemised separately from *What's On* - and I hope that many will be able to take part, so that we can all truly say - "*We will remember them.*"

Front cover (clockwise from top left): the memorial cross at St George's, Preshute; the names of some of the missing from the Wiltshire Regiment on the Menin Gate in Ypres; the Lutyens monument to the missing on the Somme; the names of the dead on the Marlborough town memorial.

David Du Croz - Editor

World War I: What was it all about?

Michael Hart

In 1914 a brutal war put a sudden stop to the largely peaceful 19th century. It had owed its relative stability to the balance-of-power strategies of the 1815 Congress of Vienna and had witnessed remarkable material, intellectual, and moral progress.

Why did this happen? Historians don't agree. Some argue that big events do not necessarily have big causes. Human folly is sufficient. Better statesmanship could have averted war. The culprits were bungling monarchs, reckless generals, inept diplomats. Europe "slithered" into war, according to Lloyd George. Everyone was sleepwalking - the whole thing a ghastly aberration.

To others the war was the inevitable clash of European nation states that had previously carried out their rivalries scrambling for empire in Africa and the East and for the spoils of the collapsing Ottoman Empire - a powder keg that only needed a spark.

To others, again, it was all about Germany: recently united, rapidly becoming the leading scientific, industrial, military power, aching to expand, she was simply too powerful for the stability of Europe. Big events do have big causes.

But some points are clear: it was not a war of rival ideologies because everyone shared the aggressive nationalism of the day, underpinned by twisted Darwinian notions of "the survival of the fittest". It was fought for European dominance. Only few actively sought war, but these few mattered - generals in Berlin, Vienna and St Petersburg. When war broke out it was initially greeted with patriotic enthusiasm because people expected it to be short, clinical, and successful. Kitchener and Moltke were among the few who realised it would be long, bloody and destructive.

And everyone agrees that the consequences were catastrophic. It destroyed the 19th century civilisation which had allowed a confident, educated middle class to emerge. It put an end to the central role Europe had played in world affairs for 300 years. It made possible the Bolshevik revolution in Russia, and set up America as the new international arbiter. A vindictive peace prevented reconciliation and rapid economic recovery. Every country had to live without its "lost generation". Liberal democracy now faced two deadly opponents - communism and fascism.

The Paris treaties replaced four multi-ethnic empires with 13 new nation states, trusting the principle of ethnicity, of the "self-determination" of nations to restore stability. A costly mistake: nationalism, as we found out later and are seeing again today, has to be tamed not inflamed.

WWI: why so long, bloody and destructive?

David Du Croz

Most people thought it would be over by Christmas. Surely this little family squabble could be sorted out by a few short sharp battles, a bit of strategic military manoeuvring, some diplomatic deals. After all the most recent conflict between French and German forces back in 1870/71 had lasted just six months, and involved the mobilising of no more than half a million men by both sides. Great power struggles had largely been resolved by distant colonial conflicts or by proxy European wars, such as had been happening in the Balkans. Why should this war be any different?

But times had changed and the battlefield had become so much bigger. New weapons of industrialised mass destruction meant an inevitable increase in casualties, and for the first half of the war they were weapons which favoured the defender. Not until significant advances were made in aeroplanes, tanks, and infantry weaponry would the attacker begin to have the advantage, and therefore the opportunity to bring this war to an end. Likewise the tactics employed by commanders in the field had to be completely re-learnt, developed and applied.

The mobilisation of huge numbers of trained soldiers, and the ability through railway networks, and by both road and sea, to move these large professional armies around Europe made possible the evolution of continental strategies. More men could now be thrown into battle in more places than had ever been possible before. The scope and size of the conflict meant that a long war with growing numbers of casualties was inevitable. The German Schlieffen Plan of 1914 and the Kaiserschlacht of 1918, just as the British Gallipoli and Palestinian campaigns of 1915 and 1917/18 respectively, are evidence of the far greater scope of strategic possibilities available to commanders.

Likewise the ability of governments to mobilise societies and economies for a total war effort meant that countries could sustain a war of this scale of ferocity for longer. Consider for example the production of shells, propaganda and publicity, recruitment and conscription, all of which could now happen on a scale that previously would not have been possible.

It is true that both generals and politicians on all sides made mistakes that prolonged the war and increased the casualty toll. It would however be wrong to adopt an "Oh-What-A-Lovely-War" attitude to those in authority between 1914 and 1918 - the generals were certainly not the "incompetent swine" of Sassoon's poetry, but men struggling in unfamiliar circumstances to fulfil their political

masters' wishes with inadequate means. And by some twisted paradox, the political leaders found themselves more and more reluctant as the war progressed to contemplate anything but the enemy's unconditional surrender to justify the ever-increasing sacrifice of their countrymen that such a policy perpetuated.



It is easy to stand on the slopes of the Passchendaele ridge amongst the 11,871 headstones of the Tyne Cot cemetery, and to rail against the stupidity and inhumanity of man; but 100 years ago there were no easy solutions or quick conclusions to the complex causes that had sparked this conflict.

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World War I: the war to end all wars?

Allan Mallinson

It is not possible to live in an English village - or indeed a Scots, Irish or Welsh one - without being aware of the Grim Reaper's harvest in the years 1914-1918. The war memorials not only enumerate but also name the price of victory, sometimes in whole families of sons. The cost was indeed high - high enough in blood for Britain, but twice as high for France. How could it be otherwise with so many men under arms and for so long?

Need it have been *so* high, however? I maintain that it need not have been.

Was it a war of German aggression? Were the Germans truly deserving of the *Kriegsschuld* (war guilt) verdict of the Versailles peace conference of 1919, the basis of their agreement to pay reparations?

There have long been attempts to refute it; in Germany the Nazis exploited the issue during their rise to power. Even some British historians have sought to mitigate the verdict of particular guilt. Yet when the German representative at the Versailles conference asked Georges Clemenceau, the French prime minister, 'What, in your opinion, will future historians make of the troublesome and controversial issue?', Clemenceau replied, 'This I don't know. But I know for certain that they will not say that Belgium invaded Germany!'

If for France and Britain, then, the war was not of their making, was the peace they made at Versailles as good as it might have been?

When the final treaty was signed, Marshal Ferdinand Foch despaired that it was 'not a peace but a twenty-year armistice'. He would die just ten years later - just ten years before his prophecy was proved true.

As Cicero wrote, 'War should be so engaged in that nothing but peace should appear to be aimed at'.

For Versailles made a peace that was on the one hand too harsh and on the other too lenient. The Allies' exhaustion after four years' fighting - the cost in blood and treasure - demanded territorial and financial reparations from the Kaiser and his Second Reich. Yet the same exhaustion conceded too much in the arrangements for the future self-government of Germany. And being so exhausted, the Allies would have no will in the years that followed to maintain armies great enough either to enforce the harshness or else to safeguard the leniency. Foch saw it plainly.

If all do not agree that the war was *not* futile, despite its excessive cost, most seem to agree that the peace was truly tragic. And so the debate as to the war's ulti-

mate fertility will go on.

[The previous article is adapted from Fight to the Finish, based on the author's monthly commentaries in The Times, published by Penguin Random House.

Allan Mallinson is speaking at St Mary's Church at 7pm on Wednesday 31st October - see full details of Events in Marlborough for Remembrance on page 20. - Editor]

World War I: Armistice Day Marlborough 1918

Andrew Ross

Throughout October 1918 the local Journal was full of reports of Allied successes. Such stories spoke of the Allies sweeping forward, prisoners being taken, the enemy being forced back. After four years could it be the war which had taken such a toll in human misery was at last reaching a conclusion? The Allies were still pushing hard and the Germans were resisting fiercely. On 4th November, the Allies fought the last large-scale action of the Great War, the Battle of the Sambre. Two men from Marlborough were killed on the morning of the attack and another was mortally wounded.

Soon after nine o'clock on the morning of the 11th of November the local Journal received a telegraph direct from France with the news that the armistice had been signed. The news was hard to believe, and confirmation was urgently sought. Within an hour the news was confirmed and a message was sent to the Mayor, Councillor George Hughes, who was taking a lesson at the College. The lesson was immediately abandoned. News flashed around the College and 700 boys flooded onto the High Street. Not much was going on there yet, other than a lone piper who was piping a lament. Crowds started to gather whilst the Beadle shouted that the Mayor would be making a proclamation at one o'clock. Flags were hoisted on all public buildings and bunting appeared everywhere.

The Mayor addressed a huge crowd that gathered in front of the Town Hall steps. He informed them that the armistice was signed at five that morning and that hostilities had ceased at eleven. Wild cheering accompanied the announcement. He made a rousing speech calling for the unity of Nations so that there could be no more wars. Children and even dogs were dressed up in patriotic garb and soldiers from the Red Cross Hospital paraded up and down the High Street banging instruments and singing patriotic songs.

Back down at the other end of the High Street where the news had first broke, celebrations became somewhat more boisterous as one contemporary reported: *'When we got back to school, the boys in Upper School began to throw anything, books, ink-*

bottles, coal through the large windows and out-college boys who were in for lunch threw them all back again; the waste-paper baskets were burned and I personally burned all the notices. There was an unholy mess. A list was put up so that boys who had taken part in the destruction would put their names down and have ten shillings added to the bill or pay the ten bob themselves, quite a lot squeezed their pocket-money and paid. The right spirit I thought. That night we barricaded our dormitory to prevent the captains getting in and got away with it. We had a service in Chapel and so ended the first Armistice Day'.

Hastily arranged services of thanksgiving were held later in the day in St Mary's and the Congregational Church. St Mary's was bedecked in bunting and a parochial roll of honour containing the names of the men who had served was proudly displayed. As the momentous day ended there was an air of incredulity. It was hard to believe that after four long years the War was over at last.

Quakers in World War I

Barney Rosedale

The Quakers declared their commitment to peace in 1660, soon after their foundation by George Fox in that turbulent period after the Civil War with 'the world turned upside down', and since then they have consistently opposed all wars, and the greed, lies and injustice that can lead to wars. Most Quakers tried to counteract the jingoism before 1914 and resisted the call to arms.

Some volunteered for the Friends Ambulance Service or the Friends War Victims Relief Committee (FWVRC) to relieve suffering at the front. Others assisted on the Home front and campaigned for peaceful resolutions.

When conscription was imposed in 1916, many Quakers of military age chose to register as conscientious objectors (COs), while a small but significant number joined up, feeling this was the quickest way of ending the war.

Humanitarian Relief: The FWVRC helped with building, medical aid and agriculture; in France they built homes for thousands of displaced people and ran hospitals in three centres with district nursing, dental and maternity care. They also did similar work in Austria, Hungary, Poland, Serbia, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands, and in Russia they continued to feed thousands of peasants in the famine of 1921-22.

Caring for the Wounded: The Friends Ambulance Unit was a volunteer service set up in 1914, supporting the wounded from the French divisions in the Champagne and Argonne regions and sharing many of the risks and horrors with the men in the trenches.

Assisting Enemy Aliens: The Aliens Restriction Act of 1914 required all

German or Turkish residents in Britain to register; they were initially restricted to within five miles of their homes and later many males were interned, leaving their families destitute. The Friends Emergency Committee found homes for stranded people, helped find them work and supported men held in internment camps.

Conscientious Objection: after conscription came in in 1916, all unmarried men of working age had to join the armed services. Quakers, believing that there is that of God in every person, believe it is wrong to take life. They therefore registered as ‘objectors’ under the ‘conscience clause’ of the Military Service Act; some were prepared to do alternative non-combatant work such as in the Medical Corps or farming (the ‘alternativists’), other COs (the ‘absolutists’) rejected any war-related work and refused to obey military orders. Many COs were turned down by the tribunals, sent to the front, imprisoned in solitary confinement and with ‘field punishments’ and a few were condemned to death, but the sentences were commuted to hard labour up to 1919.

Campaigning for Peace: Quakers were actively involved in campaigning for peace before, during and after the war. Work included campaigning against the militarism that led to the war, challenging the introduction of conscription, supporting conscientious objectors in prison, and resisting censorship laws by publishing without submission to the censor.

The Western Front Today

Jane Nicholson

Nearly all the action of the war took place along the Western Front which runs North/South from the North Sea in Belgium to the Swiss border. This is where the combatants fought and were buried in hundreds of cemeteries and where the great memorial monuments, designed by famous architects, were built; all of which are today visited by thousands of people from all over the world. I was one of those visitors in 2014 at the beginning of the great centennial commemorations.

Such was the censorship that it was only in letters home from the Front that a few people at home learnt of the appalling conditions their kinsmen were suffering under. The public can now walk through some of the preserved trenches and see for themselves the underground bunkers in which men lived and died in the cold, the wet and the horrendous mud. The now rusty barbed wire defences are still there, the surrounding fields still throw up the occasional body parts and uniforms of those that fell and were never found. The knowledge of their sacrifice is kept alive by the local community, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and the vast numbers of visitors, especially schoolchildren, who find many of those

who lost their lives fighting for our futures were of similar ages to themselves.

I was awed by the beauty of the cemeteries we visited: small ones, like the clearing amongst trees where one hundred and sixty-three members of the Devonshire Regiment were buried in what had been their front-line trench ("The Devonshires held this trench; the Devonshires hold it still"); huge ones, like the Tyne Cot cemetery where just short of twelve thousand men are buried. On a visit to what is the largest Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery in the world in 1922, King George V said: *"We can truly say that the whole circuit of the Earth is girded with the graves of our dead I have many times asked myself whether there can be more potent advocates of peace upon Earth through years to come than this massed multitude of silent witnesses to the desolation of war."*



Men from the same regiments lie next to each other, in death as in life, brothers in arms whose patriotism, sense of duty and friendships inspired them to give up so much for us. A highlight for me was being present at the daily Menin Gate ceremony along with thousands of others from across the Commonwealth, where it was possible to remember with respect the sacrifice of so many one hundred years ago. The bugles sound *The Last Post*, those memorable words from Laurence Binyon's poem *For The Fallen* are spoken, and then after a minute's silence and before *Reveille* is played, the lines of the *Kobima Epitaph* ring out as if from the mouths of the dead: *"When you go home, tell them of us and say, for their tomorrow, we gave our today."*

Marlborough College Festival

To celebrate the spectacular £6.5m refurbishment of its Memorial Hall whilst commemorating the 749 Old Marlburians who gallantly fought and lost their lives in WW1.

The festival, which will take place between 1 and 11 November, will include a fabulous array of lectures, special guests, concerts and audio-visual presentations, the majority of which are free to the public. Tickets are, however, required and can be secured for the following events by contacting:

memfesttickets@marlboroughcollege.org:

Thursday 1 November, 7.30pm

“Why commemorating the First World War is more important than ever”

Speaker: Dr Jeremy Black

Friday 2 November, 7.30pm

An evening with England football legend, Stuart Pearce

Sunday 4 November, 7.30pm

BBC National Orchestra of Wales with the Amatis Trio;

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Tickets for this event are £20 – Tel: 01672 892566

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Tuesday 6 November, 5.30pm

“Whatever happened to God? Faith and the First World War”

Speaker: The Revd Canon Andrew Studdert- Kennedy

Tuesday 6 November, 7.30pm

Film Evening – “La Grande Illusion” by Jean Renoir

Wednesday 7 November, 7.30pm

Ernest Shackleton and the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition 1914-1917

Speaker: Brian Anderson

Thursday 8 November, 7.30pm

The OM War Poets: Siegfried Sassoon and Charles Hamilton Sorley

Speaker: Jean Moorcroft Wilson

Friday 9 November, 7.30pm

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I know that St. Non's is a place where I can 'retreat', take time out, reflect and refresh my soul. I can feel renewed and refilled with the loving spirit of the place created by the nuns in the most beautiful surroundings on the Pembrokeshire coast.

Part of the time there is spent being led and taught, and part just absorbing the surroundings on cliff and shore walks of the Atlantic Ocean, where some swam, seals and birds abound, and we were blessed with brilliant sunlight.

We were led by Colin Heber Percy, a recently ordained priest in the Pewsey parishes. He invited us to take a journey with Julian of Norwich by looking in depth at her 'Divine Revelations'. I had heard talk of Julian many times and visited her anchorite cell built into a church wall in Norwich, where she spent most of her life. Very little is known of her personal life. Her dates are given as 1342 to 1416 but the revelations themselves refer to a time in her life when, following a serious illness, she was given the last rites and following this had a series of sixteen visions of Jesus Christ which ended when she recovered from her illness a few days later. She wrote about these immediately after they had happened. Some years later she wrote a long text exploring the meaning of the visions. In our sessions we looked at some of these and were given glimpses of her theology and hopeful message that God's love for each and everyone of us is greater than we can know. He knows us inside out and therefore there is no need to hide anything from him as his love and compassion are always with us however sinful we have been. We need to let him into our lives and be guided by him.

On the last evening we enjoyed sung choral evensong in St. David's Cathedral – a great treat, and the final gift was a walking meditation to the ruined chapel where St. David was born, along the cliff tops back to the tiny chapel next to the Retreat Centre for eucharist. The walk was interspersed with readings of writings of TS Eliot, Julian and Raymond Carver.

Colin led us with love, compassion and understanding. Thank you.

--o000o--

*The Soldier eyed him upward, limb by limb,
Paused at the Face, then muttered, 'Wounds like these
Would shift a bloke to Blighty just a treat!'
Christ, gazing downward, grieving and ungrim,
Whispered, 'I made for you the mysteries,
Beyond all battles moves the Paraclete.'*

(Siegfried Sassoon)

The young poet and soldier, 'Mad Jack', not so long ago a pupil at Marlborough College, now stands before a life-size Crucifix in a small French village during the First World War and envies Christ's wounds. Such wounds would send a soldier back home – back to Blighty – but there Christ remains, suffering for the sake of a broken world. Sassoon's poem captures a theological reality of significant importance. God suffers with the world, even as he takes great joys in its joys.

The First World War ushered in an age of Secularism and the Christian faith, in particular, came under critical attack even as the devastating reality of that seemingly endless conflagration dragged along. In an urgent manner, the Western World pleaded for an answer to a question centuries old. Why does a loving God, both all-knowing and all-powerful, allow such horrific suffering within and among His creation? What kind of God is this, if a God at all?

It would appear that God asks us to find meaning in the suffering and, still more, his own presence. And although that meaning might feel somewhat inadequate, it is a reminder of the presence of the 'Paraclete', the Holy Spirit who moves even above the din of the battlefield, ever present among a suffering creation.

I worked as a Hospital Chaplain and I can never forget a story told to me by my Pastoral Supervisor at the time. Himself a Unitarian Minister and long-standing chaplain, I had asked Rahj how he understood suffering in the context of a loving God. He told me a simple story. I find it adequate I suppose on one level, but still perhaps not quite. And maybe that's the closest I can get.

Rahj was called in 'early doors' on a Sunday morning to visit the bedside of a young boy who had been horribly burned in a house fire. Perhaps mercifully, he didn't have much longer, but Rahj said he did what he could for the lad and for his family. Settling down beside his hospital bed, he read the words of the Twenty-third psalm. And as he read, a single tear rolled down the charred cheek. In that tear, Rahj told me, God was present.

True in 1916 and true, I suppose today – even in our madness and pain, God never abandons us. That's the best I can say.

What's on in November

Regular events

Every Monday

7.30pm: Christchurch. Marlborough Choral Society.

7.45-9pm: Bell-ringing practice at St George's, Preshute.

Every Tuesday

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

7.30-9pm: Bell-ringing practice at St Mary's, Marlborough.

Every Wednesday

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

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

7.30-9pm: Bell-ringing practice at St John's, Mildenhall.

12.30pm: St George's, Preshute (*every first Wed*). Teddy Prayers + Picnic. A service with tea & cakes for U5's & their carers.

7.30-9.30pm: St Mary's Church Hall. Marlborough Community Choir.

Every Thursday (or some Thursdays)

10am: Jubilee Centre. Drop-in, Tea/Coffee followed by Lunch at 12.30.

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

2pm: Mildenhall Village Hall. Marlborough Floral Club. £30 a year membership. £5 guest. 520129. (*1st Thursday in the month*).

7-8.30pm: Wesley Hall, Oxford St. Hangout &

Devotion. Youth Club.

Every Friday

10-12 noon: Christchurch

Every Friday and Saturday

10am-4pm: 132 High St

Marlborough Museum. ,

Every 2nd Saturday

10-12 noon: Library. Marl

Association. Drop-in advic

November Calendar

PLEASE NOTE: Special events are listed separa

1st (Thursday)

2pm: Mildenhall Village

Katherine Kear: 'The TV

7.30pm: Kennet Valley Ha

Trust Association. Talk by

of Bristol Theatre Royal'. ,

2nd (Friday)

7pm: Elcot Lane. Firewo
(child), u4 free.

7.30pm Memorial Hall, Ma

evening with Stuart Pearce

Admission free, but a ticke

memfesttickets@marlboro

3rd (Saturday)

7pm-midnight: Town Hall

Macmillan Cancer Support

meal, raffle, DJ & dancing

nadinekimjohnson@outloo

07885465485.

4th (Sunday)

7.30pm: Marlborough Coll

Subscription Concert: BBC National Orchestra of Wales). £20 (£10 Students). 01672 892246.

Crush Hall. Food bank.
(1st April-22 December)
Street SN8 1HN.
£3 (under 16s free).

Marlborough & District Dyslexia
Society. Help *line*: 07729 452143.

WW1 Remembrance Service on page 20.

Marlborough Hall. Floral Club. Talk by
Mrs. Elizabeth G. 'The
Twelve Days'. 861279.
Marlborough Hall, Lockeridge. National
Trust. Michael Hunkin: 'History
of Marlborough'. £3, £4 (non members).

Marlborough Park Display. £3.50, £2

Marlborough College. An
evening with
England football legend.
A ticket is required from
marlboroughcollege.org.

Marlborough College. The Autumn Ball in aid of
the
Marlborough College. Tickets £40 (3 course
dinner, silent auction) from
marlboroughcollege.co.uk or
01672 892246

Marlborough College Memorial Hall.

5th (Monday)

St John's Academy. Start of Term 2.
2pm: Kennet Valley Hall. Embroiderers' Guild. Talk
by Lydia Gardner: 'Creating Puppets & Dolls for
Film?'. Everyone welcome.

7th (Wednesday)

7.30pm: Memorial Hall, Marlborough College. An
illustrated talk by Brian Anderson: 'Ernest Shackleton
& the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition 1914-17.
Admission free, but a ticket is required from
memfesttickets@marlboroughcollege.org.
7.30pm: Wesley Hall, Oxford Street. WI. Talk by Jill
Sudbury: 'Meditation & Mindfulness for Health &
Wellbeing'. New members and guests welcome.

9th (Friday)

7.30pm: Memorial Hall, Marlborough College.
Advanced Pupils' Recital. Admission free, but a ticket
is required from
memfesttickets@marlboroughcollege.org.

12th (Monday)

7.30pm: Bouverie Hall, Pewsey. The Arts Society
Pewsey Vale. Lecture by Hanne Sutcliffe: 'Ultimate
Luxury: The Story of Chinese Wallpapers in English
Country Homes'. Visitors welcome. £7 Membership
Secretary: 07775 683163.

7.30pm: Kennet Valley Hall Lockeridge. Talk by Air
Vice-Marshall Graham Skinner: 'The Introduction of
Jet Aircraft to the RAF'. £10 (including light
refreshment). In aid of RAF Benevolent Fund &
Crofton Beam Engine.

14th (Wednesday)

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

7.45pm: Wesley Hall, Oxford Street. Gardening Association. Talk by Carl Gill: 'Plant Propagation'.

17th (Saturday)

8pm: St Mary's Church Hall. Marlborough Folk Roots. Concert: Ray Cooper.
£15 from Sound Knowledge. 512465.

18th (Sunday)

7.30pm: St Peter's Church. Concert: Hamish Brown (Piano) and Peter Harris (Tenor). £10, £8 (Members).

19th (Monday)

11am: Ellendune Community Centre, Wroughton. Lecture by Carole Petipher: 'The Seine Estuary: Capturing the 19th Century Imagination – Birthplace of Impressionism'. Guests welcome £7. Membership Secretary:01793 840790.

30th (Friday)

3.00-8.00pm: Town Hall. Santa in his Grotto by invitation of the Rotary Club.

6.30pm: Marlborough High Street. Switch on Christmas Lights, Christmas market, fairground rides plus performances by the Community Choir, Marlborough Academy of Music and Dance, a soloist and more.

December

1st (Saturday)

7.30pm: St Mary's Church. Marlborough Concert Orchestra (see below)

2nd (Sunday)

7.30pm: Marlborough College, Ellis Theatre. 'A Life of Adventure' an illustrated talk by Richard Cooper in aid of the Kempson Rosedale Enterprise Trust.

Tickets £10 from White Horse Bookshop, eventbrite.co.uk or on the door; children free.
(Bar open from 6.30pm)

Marlborough Concert Orchestra

Saturday 1st December at 7.30pm

St Mary's church Marlborough

Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No.2

Dvořák: American Suite

Grieg: Wedding Day at Troidhaugen

Bartók: Evening in Transylvania

Licensed bar and raffle

Tickets: £10 adults, £2 students from Sound Knowledge or on the door



Marlborough Churches Together

Usual Sunday Service times

Christchurch, New Road (Methodist)

10.30am Morning Service with 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 (3rd 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
(Marlborough)

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

St George's Tea Time followed by Evening Prayer: 4.30pm Weds.
(Preshute) Teddy Prayers + Picnic: 12.30pm first Wed of every month.

Events in Marlborough for Remembrance

OCTOBER

31st (Wednesday)

7.00pm St Mary's Church. Allan Mallinson: 'The Great War: Trying to make sense of senseless slaughter'.

NOVEMBER

1st (Thursday)

7.30pm Marlborough College Memorial Hall. Dr Jeremy Black: 'Why commemorating the First World War is more important'.*

4th (Sunday)

7.30pm Marlborough Town Hall. Alex Waldman and Dame Janet Suzman: 'War and the Pity of War - The poetry and letters of Wilfred Owen'.

Tickets £20 from White Horse Bookshop.

6th (Tuesday)

5.30pm Marlborough College Memorial Hall. The Revd Canon Andrew Studdert-Kennedy: 'Whatever happened to God? Faith and the First World War'.*

7.30pm Marlborough College Memorial Hall. Jean Renoir's film: 'La Grande Illusion' (in French with English subtitles) *

8th (Thursday)

7.30pm Marlborough College Memorial Hall. Jean Moorcroft Wilson: 'The Old Marlburian War Poets: Siegfried Sassoon and Charles Hamilton Sorley' *

9th (Friday)

12.00 noon: Wreath laying at the 7th Wilts War Memorial

10th (Saturday)

7pm Marlborough Town Hall. A tribute to the people of Marlborough and their part in the Great War. Wine and light refreshments.

Tickets £5 from White Horse Bookshop and Town Council Offices

11th (Sunday)

Remembrance Sunday parades and services are given on page 29.

7.00pm Marlborough Common. Lighting of a WWI Beacon of Light.

15th (Thursday)

7.30pm St Peter's Church. History Society. Lecture by David Du Croz: 'WW1 Conclusions and Reflections'.

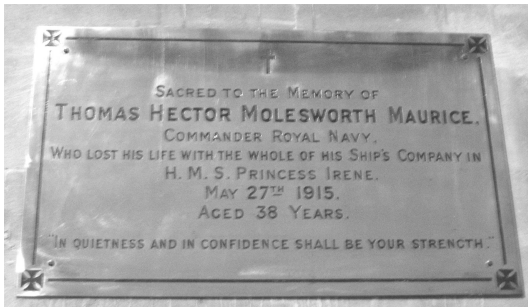
£4 for non-members who are most welcome.

* Free admission for these events, **but** a ticket is required. Please contact memfesttickets@marlboroughcollege.org

Marlborough Stories from 100 years ago

Thomas Maurice, a member of the Maurice medical family, was a Commander in the Royal Navy when he died aged 37 on the 27th May 1915. His parents were James and Mary Maurice of 40, High Street and his wife was Cicely Maurice. Thomas and Cicely were married in 1905 and at the time of the 1911 Census were living in Southsea

Thomas was killed by an explosion when his ship, HMS *Princess Irene*, blew up while being loaded with mines in the Medway estuary just off Sheerness, prior to deployment on a mine-laying mission. Only six months earlier another parishioner from St Peter's had died in a similar explosion on board HMS *Bulwark*. A total of 352 people died in the *Princess Irene* explosion, including 273 officers and men, and 76 dockyard workers.



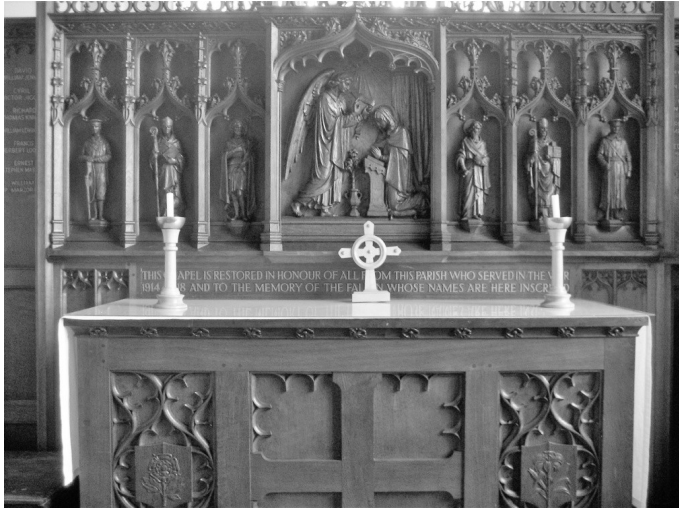
The devastation caused by the explosion was horrific. Flames rose 100 metres into the sky and a huge pall of smoke hung over the Kentish shoreline. A girl of nine was killed by flying debris on the Isle of Grain, and a ship moored half a mile away had its crane

blown off. Wreckage of all sorts was scattered up to 20 miles from the scene of the explosion, from which there was just one survivor from the ship itself.

An inquiry into the explosion blamed the accident on the hurried priming of the mines by untrained personnel; possible sabotage was ruled out by a later investigation. Thomas Maurice is remembered on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, in the War Memorial chapel of St Peter's Church in Marlborough, and on a brass plaque at St George's, Preshute.

Lionel Crow enlisted in 1914 with the 1st Canadian Mounted Rifles, having been previously employed by his father, a leather manufacturer in Angel Yard in Marlborough. He served with this battalion until his death on June 2nd 1916 in the Battle for Mount Sorrel.

This piece of the high ground on the Ypres salient formed the 1916 British front line south-east of the city, and was held by three divisions of the Canadian Corps. The main thrust of the German attack came principally from two German divisions, which launched a sudden artillery bombardment, followed by an infantry attack, towards this high ground on 2 June. The German Army's aim was for a



War memorial reredos in St Mary's Lady Chapel

limited attack to clear the British Army off this advantageous high ground, the only high ground with dominating views for observation over the German sector that it possessed at this time. In so doing the hope was also to divert British attention to this area and thereby encourage the British to move troops here at a time when the

Germans knew the British Army was planning an offensive for the Somme battlefield sector further south.

The German artillery barrage at the start of the German attack and the stubborn defence by the Canadians resulted in many Canadian casualties and the high ground of the Canadian positions at Mount Sorrel was captured. A Canadian counter-attack on June 3rd was unsuccessful and the fighting continued here for another ten days. By June 13th the Canadians were again in possession of their old front line, and the German gains had for the most part been reinstated. Some attempts by the Germans in the early hours of June 14th to make counter-attacks were not successful and the battle drew to a close. The Canadian casualties by the end of the 13 days of fighting were just under 8,500, with 1,000 men killed and another 1,900 missing.

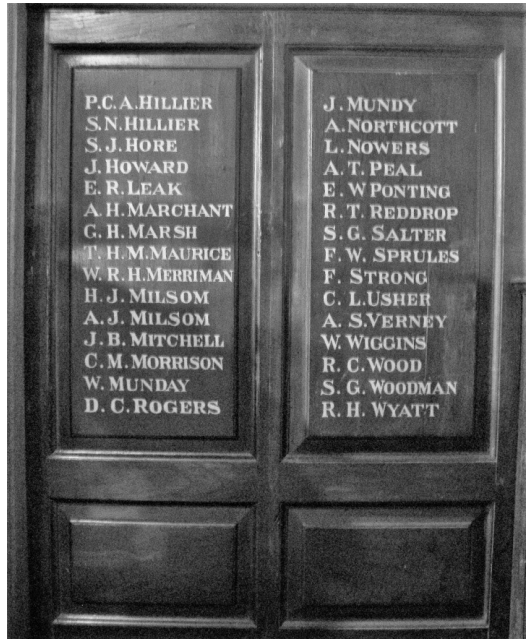
Lionel is commemorated on the Menin Gate in Ypres, having no known grave, and on the memorial board in St Mary's Church in Marlborough.

Francis Sprules: Francis' mother lived in St Peter's Terrace, and at the time of the war he was a baker at Marlborough College. He enlisted in the 1st/8th Royal Warwickshire Regiment in March 1916 and was sent to France later that summer. The following extract from the regimental war diary explains what happened on June 22nd 1917.

They were posted on the new front lines south-east of Arras which had been formed following the advances made by the British in April and May earlier that year. Trench raids were a regular part of military operations with a view to keeping the enemy on his toes, and hoping to gather information either directly or by cap-

turing prisoners for interrogation.

"At 11pm (21st) operations for raiding enemy at copse and dug-outs in the vicinity commenced. Raiding party filed out from own lines and took up allotted positions until zero hour, A Company on the right and B Company on the left. At 1.35am (22nd) A Company occupied copse after blowing up mine in front. two prisoners were captured by B Company and several Germans killed. A Company experienced difficulty in retaining hold of copse in face of artillery fire from right flank. Eventually however the men emerged from copse and headed for the dugouts which could not be found. B Company successfully overcame all opposition and obtained all objectives.



All operations being successful, raiding party commenced to withdraw at 2.15am, and reached our lines in safety by 3.15am. Casualties suffered during operations: A Company - 1 officer (who subsequently died of his wounds), and 9 Other Ranks wounded; B Company - 1 OR killed, and 2 OR wounded."

Given this information we have to assume that Private Francis Sprules was that "OR killed". He was 31 years old when he died, and is buried not far from where he fell, in the Queant Road Cemetery at Buissy.

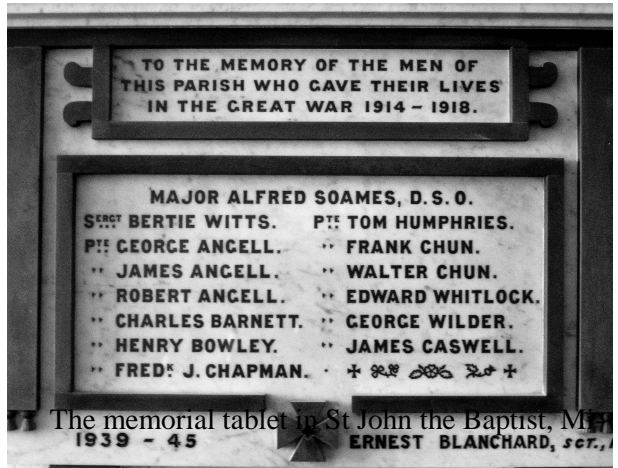
Alfred Soames was the son of the Rector of Mildenhall, and at the time of the Battle of Loos in October 1915 was a Major in the 6th Battalion of The Buffs (The East Kent Regiment), having already won the DSO. His regiment was brought into a sector of the front line on the Loos battlefield on September 30th. On October 8th they repelled a strong German infantry attack, and then on October 13th they took part in what became the most famous action of the whole of the Battle of Loos - the attack on the Hohenzollern Redoubt.

This redoubt was a heavily fortified part of the German front line guarding the route through to the Lens coalfields, which the Germans were very keen to keep their hands on to help supply their war needs. A contemporary of Alfred's in a neighbouring regiment composed a poem about the Hohenzollern Redoubt, of

which this is the first verse:

*Oh proud Hohenzollern, named after a King,
You stood in your sullen might,
And a challenge to all British arms did fling,
Caring little for pity or right.
Machine gunned and wired, your strength was well known,
You were manned by a terrible crew,
But little you knew, oh mighty Redoubt,
What the "Terrier" men could do.*

The attack of October 13th was partially successful but at a huge cost to the participating troops. Another soldier taking part in the same attack described it as "absolute hell with the lid off. Dying and wounded all over the place. Shall never forget this day." The British problem was compounded by the weakness of the artillery support bombardment, the ineffective use of gas,



and the shortage of hand grenades. After the war the official history commented: "The fighting [from 13-14 October] had not improved the general situation in any way and had brought nothing but useless slaughter of infantry".

Alfred was 53 when he was killed in action in this battle on October 13th, and is commemorated on the Loos Memorial at Dud Corner cemetery, having no known grave.

Christmas Exhibition by Marlborough Artists

Avebury Social Centre (opposite the church)

10.00am - 4.00pm Saturday 24th November

Original paintings, prints and cards plus tea, coffee and cakes

Maurice and Rosemary (nee Dobson) Cooper and **Marian and Stewart Dobson** have just returned from a Cruise to New York, Quebec and Canada. On the way back home across the Atlantic, **Maurice and Rosemary** celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on the 28th. September. The Ship organised a Renewal of their Vows ceremony which was carried out by the Master, Captain Ashley Cook. The ceremony took place in a special room decorated with flowers and included a special wedding cake baked on board, champagne and a bouquet of pink roses for Rosemary. Following the cutting of the cake the Captain invited them to a personal tour of the Bridge. All in all it was a very memorable occasion. Maurice and Rosemary's wedding 50 years ago took place in St. Peter's and was carried out by the Revd **Jeremy Walsh** who later became Bishop of Tewkesbury. Congratulations to the happy couple.

Following the piece in April family news there are more changes for the Gilbert family in Cirencester. The **Revd Canon Howard Gilbert**, son of Eileen and Eric Gilbert from Christchurch congregation, has been appointed Rector of the benefice of Minchinhampton with Box and Amberley in Gloucestershire. Howard will leave his current appointment in Cirencester at Christmas to take up his new appointment in the New Year. It will be a busy time for all the family as Daisy, who will be eight at Christmas and Lucy who is five, will move to their new school in Minchinhampton as mum Susie continues her teaching practice at Thomas Keeble School, which is near Stroud.

People who attended St Peter's Junior School in the 80's and 90's will remember **Tom Perry** as a dedicated, caring teacher. Sadly he died early in September. Tom not only taught the basics, he treated his class as all round people and encouraged their interest in singing, playing simple instruments, maypole dancing, chess, crop circles, etc. His loss was posted online on Marlborough Notice Board and there was a flood of appreciative comments from old students. His sons Philip and Chris will be comforted to know that so many have fond memories of being in his class.

Don Wallis and his wife Margaret came to College Fields when it was a new development and quickly made a homely house and garden. They enjoyed holidays in Switzerland. They joined the U3A and were active in the Country Dancing, Rambling and Travel groups. Don continued these after Margaret died and led the Photography group. Because his health deteriorated he moved to Castle Court. In September he died in Great Western Hospital. He will be sadly missed by his son, Neil, daughter-in-law, Alison, his stepsons and families and by his many friends.

From the Registers 2018:

Baptism - *we welcome:*

23 September – Harry Hollinghurst at St George’s

14 October – Thanksgiving for the gift of Beatrice Gibb at St Mary’s

Wedding - *we congratulate:*

22 September – Susie Price and Douglas Pocock at St Mary’s

Departed - *we pray for the families of:*

17 September – John Greenwood (82) of Laineys Close,

Marlborough

West Wiltshire Crematorium, Semington

23 September – Peter Eric Duffy (58) of Manton Hollow,

Marlborough

North Wiltshire Crematorium, Royal Wootton Bassett and St George’s

24 September – Robert ‘Bob’ Neville (69) of Irvine Way,

Marlborough

West Wiltshire Crematorium, Semington and St George’s

Marlborough Church Contacts

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Parish Priest, St Thomas More RC Church

The Revd Dr Janneke Blokland

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Assistant Chaplain, Marlborough College

The Revd Heather Cooper

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Minister, Christchurch Methodist

The Revd Dr David Maurice

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The Revd Tim Novis

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Senior Chaplain, Marlborough College

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NEWS from the Churches

Women's Fellowship

Nov 6 th ...	John Porter, M.A.F; Bring and buy.
13 th ...	Members' Meeting.
20 th ...	Rosie Beal
27 th ...	Tea and Chat
Dec 4 th ...	Eileen Gilbert

Remembrance Sunday – 11th November

All are welcome to follow the Parade in the High Street, Marlborough to the War Memorial for the laying of wreaths and the two-minute silence before continuing to the Remembrance Sunday Service in St Mary's Church, starting at 11.15am with Revd Dr Janneke Blokland preaching.

A shorter and more informal Remembrance Service, particularly suitable for children and families, will be held at 5.30pm in St Mary's Church.

St George's, Preshute and St John the Baptist, Minal will start their Remembrance Sunday Services at 10.00am.

At Christchurch – the preacher allows members of the congregation to leave the Service and join the parade at the War Memorial just before 11am and observes the 2minute silence at 11am.

Drug Policy Reform: *Do Less Harm*

An illustrated talk on how our current approach to illegal drugs is damaging society, and what we can do about it, by Bill Yates and Barney Rosedale, will be on Thursday November 15th at 4.00 for 4.30pm in the Quaker Meeting House. Free and tea, all welcome.

Visiting Speaker: Dr Allan Chapman

Dr Allan Chapman, Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, lecturer in the history of science at the University of Oxford, will be speaking at St Mary's Church 7.30pm on Thursday 29th November. He will address issues such as the popular misunderstandings about key events in the history of science-faith relations; give a potted history of how Galileo and Copernicus mapped the stars and were part of a huge movement, which included many churchmen, questing for knowledge of the skies; and bring us up to date with developments over the last three centuries including the work of Halley, Hooke, Herschel, Hubble and Hoyle ... Further details from Mustard Seed 511611.

Mustard Seed Book Group meets Tuesday 6th November 7.30pm



All welcome. We will be discussing 'The Queen and the Heretic: How two women changed the religion of England'. David Wilson, author, is an acclaimed narrative historian.

Prayer: is anybody listening ... and does it matter?

A panel discussion about how different faiths approach prayer, meditation and mindfulness, with the Bishop of Salisbury, Rt Rev. Nicholas Holtam; Imam Monawar Hussein, Muslim tutor at Eton; broadcaster and writer, Madeleine Bunting; and Quaker Dr Tony Stoller of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. It is chaired by Elinor Goodman, journalist and broadcaster.

This is on Friday, November 23rd at 7.30 in the newly refurbished Memorial Hall at Marlborough College, entrance is free, and all are welcome.

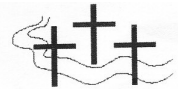
Sunday Lunch Club

The lunch is on 18th November at 12.15 as usual in the Wesley Hall.

Introduction to Luke's Gospel

A one-off session led by Revd Dr Janneke Blokland at 7.30pm
Wednesday 28th November at St Mary's.

Contact Janneke for more information: jblokland@gmail.com



**Marlborough
Anglican Team**

Marlborough Churches Together

The next MCT fraternal meeting is on Monday 5th November at the Friends Meeting House at 12.30. All are welcome.

MCT United Advent Carol Service will be on Sunday December 2nd at Christchurch.



Filling Station

Filling Station will meet at the Wesley Hall, at Christchurch, Marlborough on **Wednesday** 28th November at 7.30pm. Please come and join us in an opportunity to encounter God, to worship, pray, share, receive ministry.... and who knows what else. **Your** presence matters; **your** presence makes a difference as we build together. Come to give and come to receive.



New Catholic Website

Our Catholic friends have a new website and invite all to give it a try
Marlboroughhandpewseycatholics.org.uk

Marlborough Poverty Action Group

The next meeting is on November 5th at the Quaker Meeting House at 7.30. All are welcome.



One comment from a parent about the Activate summer programme:- “ A big thank you. By raising funds to be used for Activate at the leisure centre, my son was enabled to attend 4 full days during the holiday. This made a great difference to BOTH of us. Please keep doing what you are doing because it really does help and made our summer holiday the most enjoyable ever!”

Thank you from Andrew and Annie Studdert-Kennedy

Andrew and Annie write: ‘Our final weekend 22/23

A&AS-K

September was a truly memorable time for all six of us and we cannot thank you enough for the immensely generous gifts you gave us and the equally generous thanks you offered as well. It has been a great privilege for all of us to have been part of Marlborough Anglican Team and also the local community for the past sixteen years. We have both felt strongly upheld by all the prayers and good will on our final Sunday and whilst the service did offer a chance for reflection on the past, its focus was to the future and the ‘more’ that God has in store for us. As I said, ‘God gives just enough of himself to leave us wanting more’. Please remember Andrew and Annie in your prayers at Andrew’s licensing Service on Tuesday 13th November 2018 at 7.30pm at St Andrew’s Church, Uxbridge.

Hangout@Devotion

Thursdays 7pm-8.30pm 11s-17s at Wesley Hall, Oxford Street

An open youth club providing a safe space and a listening ear. We make toasties, pancakes, play table tennis, listen to music and hang out!

More information form Janneke (07754.486575) or Susie (07938.691497)

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