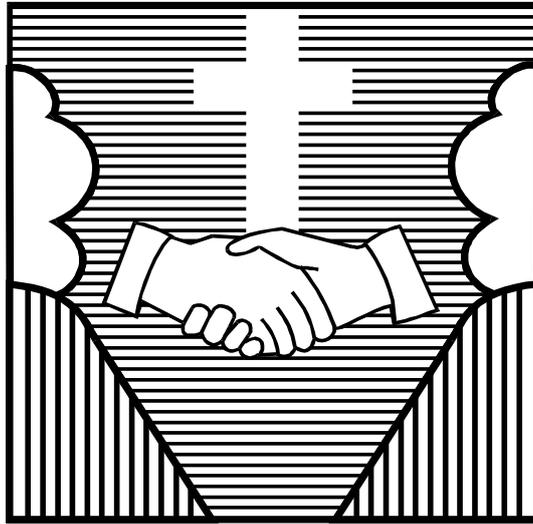


**The Valley**



**Church**

*We are ordinary people led by an extraordinary God, whose love inspires us to welcome everyone, serve our communities and grow as we follow Jesus together*

**17th December 2017 – 3rd Sunday of Advent**

09.30 Holy Communion in the Chapel  
11.00 Lantern Family Service with Graham & Sami Watts

**Services – December 2017**

24 Dec	09.30 Holy Communion with Graham Watts 15.30 Crib Service with Graham & Sami Watts 16.30 Crib Service with Graham & Sami Watts
25 Dec	09.30 Holy Communion with Graham & Sami Watts
31 Dec	10.30 Holy Communion in The Chapel

## NEWS AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Open house for New Year's Eve! Sami and Graham would love to welcome you for a drink and some nibbles to toast the end of 2017 and anticipate the New Year. On December 31st there will only be one church service in Marlow Bottom - a joint Communion at Marlow Bottom Methodist chapel at 10.30. so if you would like to join us at [165 Marlow Bottom straight](#) afterwards for a glass of something bubbly, then we will be hosting open house until 1pm (or a little later, but not for lunch). Do let us know if you can make it, thank you!

**“GODWITHUS”** In the build up to Christmas the Church of England has launched a scheme “GodWithUs” to promote going to church this Christmas and reflecting on the good news of God coming to be with us. There will be a series of videos on social media (filmed at All Saints, Wycombe) and reflections that you can receive by email or text. Do have a look and share with others. For info go to [www.churchofengland.org/Christmas](http://www.churchofengland.org/Christmas) or text GODWITHUS to 88802

### Pop Up Cinema

**All Saints Marlow** are having a Pop Up Cinema over two nights

Tue 19th Dec @ 6:30 pm – The Polar Express

Wed 20th Dec @ 6:30 pm – Sister Act

In addition there will be Family Films showing in **The Church Hall**, (morning & afternoon) Finding Nemo & Moana on the 19<sup>th</sup> and Arthur Christmas & Despicable Me 3 on the 20<sup>th</sup> December.

Tickets are now available via the website: [www.gourmetpicturecompany.co.uk/marlow](http://www.gourmetpicturecompany.co.uk/marlow).

**Readings for next week :      2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16    Luke 1: 26-38**

# TOGETHER IN **PRAYER** 4U Team

**Week beginning 17th December 2017**

**A Prayer for Advent** Wilderness is the place of Moses, a place of no longer captive and not yet free, of letting go and learning new living. Wilderness is the place of Elijah, a place of silence and loneliness, of awaiting the voice of God and finding clarity. Wilderness is the place of John, a place of repenting, of taking the first steps on the path to peace. Wilderness is the place of Jesus, a place of preparation, of getting ready for the reckless life of faith. We thank you God for the wilderness, wilderness is our place. As we wait for the land of promise. Teach us the ways of new living, lead us to where we hear your word most clearly, renew us and clear out the wastelands of our new lives, prepare us for life in the awareness of Christ's coming, when the deserts will sing and the wilderness blossom as the rose.

**Give thanks** for our friends, families and carers, all who support and nurture us; for the joy of sharing worship together and for a shared hospitality. Help us to be an open and welcoming church to all and any who seek to know our Lord better and to draw closer to God. Help us to be tolerant and respectful to each other and all whom we meet especially at this time of advent.

**Pray** for the people of Yemen, isolated and facing starvation, a cholera epidemic and devastation of crops, homes and livelihoods. **Pray** the embargo will be lifted and aid allowed into the country to bring some relief to the millions at risk. Pray for the victims of the devastating fires in California and those who lost their lives or are badly injured in the accident near Perpignan and their families.

**Pray** for those involved with the negotiations around Brexit, for patience, grace and generosity.

**Pray** for the opportunities to move forward in the power of a new Spirit as we grow in new and exciting directions, as ordinary people with our extraordinary God. **Pray** for our Team Council that there will be new ways to include all our congregations in a generous and inclusive church community, where all are valued and loved equally. **Pray** that the exciting potential opportunities for growth will be discerned by prayer and careful consideration with God's guiding hand particularly in the matter of Holy Trinity Church.

**Pray** for all those fleeing from oppression, violence and poverty, in Europe they may find a welcome and a safe haven offering hope, security and love for the future. **Pray** especially for all those living in refugee camps and squalid conditions in the Middle East and Africa and in European countries hoping for a better future.

**Pray** for those who are sick in body mind or spirit and all those who have asked for our prayers, give thanks for those who are healing. **Pray** for those who are elderly and housebound, or living in residential homes with few friends or visitors especially members of our church family. Pray for those recovering in hospital or at home.

**Pray** for those who have recently died and those who are still missed. May those who mourn them know the peace and love of Christ and his promise of eternal life.



four churches,  
one vision