

THE OTHER SIDE

All Saints
Marlow



17th December 2017 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

08.00 Holy Communion (said)
09.15 Holy Communion (sung)
10.59 Informal Service
17.30 Nine Lessons & Carols
19.30 Informal Carols

Sami Watts
Sami Watts
Dave Bull & Ellis White
Roland Slade & Dave Bull
Gill Taylor & Dave Bull

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

TONIGHT Please join us at 7.30pm for fun, games and a good sing at our Informal Carol Service in association with Lighthouse.

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday 23rd December starting at 10am. Any contribution towards the cost of flowers will be very gratefully received. Thank You! *Heather & Helen*

Eco Church Christmas Card Scheme

There is a display board at the back of the church (nearest the kitchenette) which is available for anybody to pin-up a Christmas Card to the wider church family. This gives an opportunity to save resources by using one card to pass on your Christmas greetings to multiple people within the church; and avoid the disposal of so many cards after Christmas. If you wish to take part in this initiative, you could also consider making a donation to a charity of your choice for the amount you save due to not purchasing so many cards.

On behalf of the Alpha Team and Guests we would like to send out a big thank you to the Small Groups and others (you know who you are) who gave time cooking, serving and clearing away the Alpha Suppers.

Installations in the Prayer Chapel – Art & Spirituality has created installations that aim to explore contemplation with the focus on Advent, inspired by Bishop Steven's letter & the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-10). We're encouraged to become more Christ-like, to remind ourselves that God is the loving father to the child you are now and to consider what that means to us as we look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus. You are invited to quietly reflect on the display which will remain for the whole of Advent.

SUMMARY OF CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: NOVEMBER 27TH

- **Narthex development** – We were informed that 3 quotes have been received for the work and it was agreed that subject to obtaining a suitable quotation endorsed by our architect that is acceptable to the donor, we enter into a contract with the agreed company. This will now be taken for Team Council approval.
- **Protection of Graves** – we are applying for a faculty relating to a scheme to protect gravestones from vehicular damage
- **Health and Safety** – we had a comprehensive report from James Stacey (our Health and Safety Officer) and we agreed to support all the recommended actions
- **Finance** – The 2018 budget was approved and includes a task to raise an additional ~£25,000 this year
- **Holy Trinity Church Update** – a team has been formed to take things forward, under the leadership of Pat Reading. Dave has provided a separate update on this project
- **Operations Coordinator** – we are delighted to announce that Paul Taylor has taken on this role on a voluntary basis, working alongside Liz Kendall-Jones who will be Operations Administrator

When did you last read the Black Boards in the Church Narthex? Do it soon because they will be resited when the narthex project starts. They tell of the history of the Parish before the time of the welfare state, something we take for granted today, and of a time when those who had much helped those who had little. After 400 years that ethic still continues through Marlow United Charities. The Charity owns land from which it receives rent, and this is then given in the form of cash tokens to families in the Parish to provide a few extras at Christmas time. If you have not already chosen your Christmas Charity, maybe

consider Marlow United Charities. Any donation will be gratefully received and thankfully applied. For more information contact either Dave Bull or Trustee Treasurer Brian Morse directly or via the Parish Office.

Please could any information for The Other Side be sent to the Parish Office by 9am on Wednesdays. Many thanks

Please join us for coffee in the Church Hall after the 9.15am service

In the coming week

Pop Up Cinema

The Pop Up Cinema programme for Marlow has now been published and two different films will be shown here at **All Saints**:

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, Finding Nemo & Moana on the 19th and Arthur Christmas & Despicable Me 3 on the 20th December.

Tickets are now available via the website

www.gourmetpicturecompany.co.uk/marlow.

Other notices

“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 or text GODWITHUS to 88802

Holy Trinity Church - communication

Over the past month, there have been some significant developments concerning the possible purchase of Holy Trinity Church on Wethered Road. A Church Forum has been held and four information emails have been sent out to the church family. If you are not on email or have not received these emails, copies are available at the back of church today. If you would like to be added to the database and included on future emails, please either fill in one of the purple Welcome Cards at the back of church and leave it in the tray marked "Welcome Cards" or email the parish office on parish.office@4u-team.org

SERVICES FOR THE COMING WEEK

Tuesday: 10.30 Holy Communion

Wednesday: 08.15 Morning Prayer

Friday: 19.00 Evening Prayer

Next Sunday 24th December 4th Sunday of Advent

08.00 Holy Communion (said)

14.30 Crib Service (pre-school)

16.30 Crib Service (primary school)

23.30 Midnight Mass

Readings: 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16 Luke 1: 26-38

Together **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 old 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.

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four churches,
one vision