

THE OTHER SIDE

All Saints
Marlow



24th December 2017 – 4th Sunday of Advent

08.00 Holy Communion (said)

14.30 Crib Service

16.30 Crib Service

23.30 Midnight Mass of The Nativity

Mieke Gaynor

Dave Bull & Anna Clarke

Dave Bull & Anna Clarke

Roland Slade & 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

A message from Dave & the Churchwardens

We would like to wish you a very Happy Christmas, and a time of many blessings. We look forward to worshiping and sharing with you in the year ahead, as we see all the amazing things that God has planned for us. *With love, Dave, Ruth and Julie*

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 Beattitudes (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

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.

In the coming week

Christmas Day services

8.00 Holy Communion (said)

9.15 Holy Communion (with choir)

@10.59 Informal Family Service

Sunday 31st December – There is **no** Evensong service at 5.30pm on New Year's Eve.

Other notices

ALPHA

Asking questions about faith?

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith. The local Alpha Course (alpha.org) starts with a taster session on Monday January 22nd 2018 at 10 am. The course will run on Monday mornings for 10 weeks 10am-12 noon (no session on Monday 12th February – half term)

Refreshments will be served. Creche provided for babies and pre-school children.

Contact: Vanessa Faulkner

vanessa.faulkner2@gmail.com (01628 477685)

or The Parish Office parish.office@4u-team (01628 481806) to register

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

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

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

SERVICES FOR THE COMING WEEK

Next Sunday 31st December 1st Sunday after Christmas
08.00 Holy Communion (said)
09.15 Holy Communion (sung)
10.59 Informal Service
17.30 *There is no Evensong service*

Readings: Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3 Luke 2: 15-21

Together **PRAYER** 4U Team

Week beginning 24th December 2017

A Prayer for Christmas: Lord Jesus, this Christmas as we sing the familiar carols, hear the familiar readings and ponder on familiar mysteries, give to us the gift of pure worship – that ability which Mary had of attributing to you your true worth, your full value, your inestimable greatness. Teach us to be reverent; yet teach us how to express the love that burns within our hearts as we think of your goodness to us that you have come to be our light in darkness, our hope in despair, our strength in weakness, our shelter in the storm – yes, and our eternal Saviour.



Pray for peace, hope and faith

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 Christmas.

Give thanks for the uplifting services of Carols, Christingles, and Nativities that we have enjoyed in schools and churches in Marlow, for the joyful occasions with our many children and young people and for the quiet moments to reflect on the magnitude of God's gift of his son and the impact that should have on our lives and how we need to respond as a church and individually.

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** that all those fleeing from oppression, violence and poverty, may find a welcome and a safe haven offering hope, security and love for the future. **Pray** for those in our neighbourhood facing financial hardship and homelessness, adults and children unable to afford Christmas at all.

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 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

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four churches,
one vision