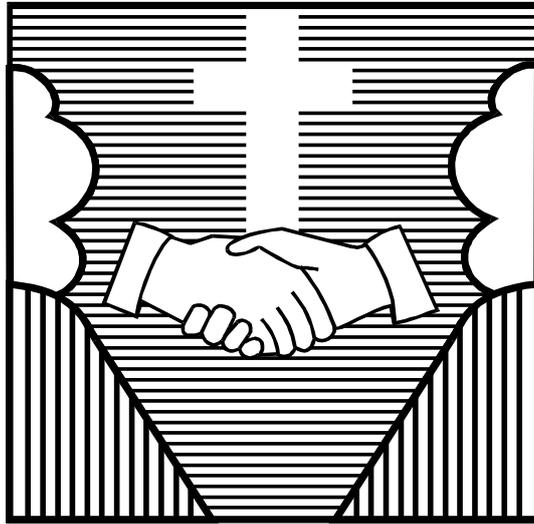


The Valley



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

7th January 2018 – Epiphany

09.30 Holy Communion with Sami Watts

11.00 Lantern in The Chapel with Graham & Sami Watts

Services – January

14 Jan 09.30 Holy Communion with Duncan Cronchey & Dave Bull

21 Jan 09.30 Holy Communion in The Chapel

11.00 Lantern at St. Mary's with Graham & Sami Watts

28 Jan 09.30 Holy Communion with Prayer Ministry with Roland Slade & Sami Watts

16.00 Lantern Lights with Graham and Sami Watts

NEWS AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

There will be an opportunity for early risers to pray tomorrow (8th January) 7-8 am at 165 Marlow Bottom.

On Sunday 28th January there will be a lay- led reflective service with prayer at 6.30 at St Mary's. More details to follow. All are welcome.

ALPHA is a series of evenings exploring the Christian faith. Each evening looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is run all around the globe, and everyone's welcome. Alpha begins with a meal and then the topic for the evening is introduced in a documentary style TV programme. The rest of the time is spent discussing, questioning and getting to the heart of each topic. **The next Alpha Course starts on Thursday January 11th.** It runs for 10 weeks with a break for half term. If you are interested in coming or know somebody who is there should be Alpha information at the back of each Church. Or check out the website <http://4u-team.org/alpha/> . For any questions or to book onto the course graham.watts@4u-team.org

CTM Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Prayer meetings, led by ministers from different churches, will be held at Marlow Methodist Church on **18th, 19th, 22nd, 24th and 25th January**, starting at **12.30 pm** and lasting for 30 min.

A short AGM followed by a Service of Celebration will take place at Great Marlow School on **Sunday 21st January at 6.45 pm**. The Unity Supper will be held at St Peter's School on **Tuesday 23rd January at 7.30 pm**, when the speaker will be Vanessa Faulkner. Admission is by ticket at £5 available from Liz Ferris and Tony Threlfall (Tel. 471610). Please let us know if you could kindly provide a quiche, salad or dessert for the Supper.

Have you ever thought about being confirmed? What is Confirmation you ask? A full answer can be found here <https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/confirmation> on the new Church of England website. A brief answer is, it is a Service where one has the chance to declare publicly their faith by reaffirming the promises made on their behalf at their baptism. The next Confirmation Service in our area is on Sunday March 4th in the evening at St Mark's Church in Bourne End. We already know of some of the congregation who will be getting Confirmed that evening so we will be heading down there en masse that night. So if this could be for you have a read of the info on the C of E website, speak to Graham or Sami, PRAY about it and pencil the date in your diary. There will be Confirmation classes run for adults and young people in preparation for the Service. Look out for details in the New Year. There is no exam!

At any time in the life of a church, there are people who are struggling - through illness, bereavement or other circumstances. There is a lot of care that already goes on in our congregations, but there is also a need for others to get involved. If you would be interested in finding out more about this, Sami will be running 3 training evenings in January - Tuesdays 16th, 23rd and 30th, 8-9.30 at 165 Marlow Bottom. Please contact her if you are interested Sami.watts@4u-team.org or 01628 440106

Another way we can be involved in supporting others is through prayer. Alan Greening, from the chapel, sends out regular emails updating prayer requests and prayer needs. If you are not on Alan's circulation list and would like to be, again, please contact Sami.

Readings for next week: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 John 1: 43-end

Together **PRAYER** 4U Team

Week beginning 7th January 2018

A Prayer for Epiphany O, God our Father, Creator of the universe, whose son, Jesus Christ, came to our world, pour your Holy Spirit upon your Church, that all the people of the world, being led through the knowledge of your truth to worship you, may offer the gold of intellect, the frankincense of devotion and the myrrh of discipline to him who is with you and the Holy Spirit who lives and reigns forever one God, world without end. Amen (Church of Sri Lanka)



Pray for peace, hope and faith in the New Year

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, to use our gifts in service to you and to all. **Pray** that we will grow good habits of prayer, learning more of your word and growing in faith.

Give thanks 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 forgiveness of those who wilfully ignore this message of love and peace to all men and women.

Pray for Hudson and Reginald who will be baptised today and for their families and friends.

Pray for all those at home and abroad whose lives have been altered by violence, terrorist acts, severe weather and tragic accidents. **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. **Pray** for those who provide food, warmth and comfort for those in need. **Pray** for the Wycombe Shelter and the many volunteers who make it work, those coming for shelter and succour.

Pray for the opportunities to move forward in the power of a new Spirit in the New Year 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 and all voices are heard.

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; those waiting for further treatment; those coming to terms with disability or changed lifestyles. **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 healing presence

All Saints
Marlow



four churches,
one vision