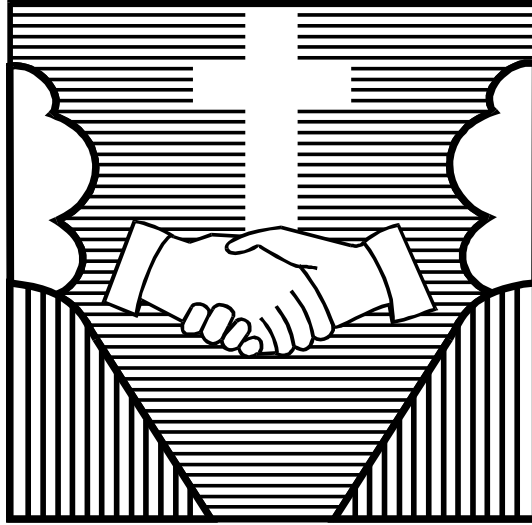


The Valley



Church

**One church of all ages, with a vibrant, dynamic, worshipping heart,
reaching out with the love of Christ to Marlow Bottom and beyond**

11th February 2018 – Next Sunday before Lent

09.30 Holy Communion with Duncan Cronchey & Dave Bull

Services – February

18 Feb 09.30 Holy Communion in The Chapel

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

25 Feb 09.30 Holy Communion with Prayer Ministry with Sami Watts

16.00 Lantern Lights with Graham & Sami Watts

NEWS AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Prayer Meeting for the New Building Project on Monday 26th February

The new building plans are progressing well, but we are very aware that prayer is the most important part of the whole process; particularly individual prayer, but also praying together. If you are able, please come and join us for prayer at **165 Marlow Bottom from 8 – 9.30pm** and to hear where we're up to.

The trees in front of St. Mary's - As we continue with the work towards a new building an issue has arisen about the two big trees in front of St Mary's. Neil Barr, the Architect working with us on our new building, and David Mason, the Oxford Diocese advisor on Church buildings, have both strongly recommended that we remove these trees in the next month or so.

They advise that we remove them now because it is not uncommon that people who want to prevent building developments happening have taken out "Tree Preservation Orders" on a particular tree or trees. There is a small risk that this may happen with our trees. If this were to happen it would almost certainly increase our costs as we would have to take on legal experts to find a way forward and it would also likely delay the building project considerably. The trees will be taken down anyway by any developer who buys the site from us. This recommendation has come from Neil and David, is supported by the team running the building project and has been agreed by the St. Mary's Church Council.

A secondary reason for the removal of these trees is that when our drains got blocked last year the company who came in to sort out the problem put a camera down the pipes to the septic tank under the ground at the front of St Mary's. They found that roots from the trees had started to break into the pipe leading to the tank. It wasn't something that would have an immediate effect but was something we were warned would need to be looked at in the future.

If the trees are going to be removed it really needs to happen in the February half term coming up. This is because it is a two day job and so ideally needs to be done when the Pre-School isn't in. To wait until the Easter holidays brings the risk that birds might have started nesting.

So all in all and with some sadness the two big trees in front of St Mary's will be removed this week."

LENT COURSE - Graeme Slocombe will be running a Lent course, based on a booklet written by the Bishop of Oxford, entitled Abundant Life, reflections on the raising of Lazarus. The course will run on Tuesdays, 27th February, 6th, 13th and 20th March at 7.30-9pm. Venue [3 Badgebury Rise, Marlow Bottom, SL7 3QA](#). The booklets cost £2.50, and as he needs to order them soon, please let him know if you want one. (07785 262078 or email graeme_slocombe50@hotmail.co.uk)

You would be welcome to join for all 4 weeks, or for whichever evenings you can make.

Children and Communion

As hopefully you know the Marlow Anglican Team is discussing the admission of children to Holy Communion. The Church of England approx 15 years ago decided that Children could take Communion before they were Confirmed if the Church PCC had agreed to the policy and that any Child taking Communion must first go through a period of instruction. As part of this process the Team Council has invited Yvonne Morris, the Diocesan Children's Advisor, to come and talk about the issues involved to anyone in the Marlow Team who wants to find out more. The evening is on Monday March 5th, 8pm at the Parish Hall in Marlow. We would encourage as many people to go as possible as Yvonne is right up to date on these issues and a clear communicator.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MARLOW

Pancake Day will be celebrated at **Marlow Methodist Church on Tuesday 13th**

February with soup, pancakes and drinks from 11.30 am – 2 pm. Volunteers are needed to provide soups and help on the day. Contact Tony Threlfall 01628 471610

Churches Together in Marlow & Marlow Refugee Action invite you to “Come to Calais – an opportunity to give and live for others during Lent “.

We are called during the season of Lent to revisit Jesus’s withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. Whatever your usual practice for observing Lent, Churches Together in Marlow & Maidenhead encourage you this year to consider a pilgrimage to go and work with the groups that provide for refugees in Calais. There is an information evening at **Christ Church URC Marlow on Monday 12th February at 8pm** and a leaflet is available at the back of the church or you can email refugeevolunteervisit@gmail.com.

Ash Wednesday 14th February There will be a service of Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes at **12 noon** at All Saints Marlow. There will also be a service at **8 pm** at St. John the Baptist Little Marlow.

Have you ever thought about being confirmed? The next Confirmation Service in our area is on Sunday March 4th in the evening at St Mark’s Church in Bourne End. There will be Confirmation classes run for adults and young people in preparation for the Service, please speak to Graham or Sami if you are interested.

The Women's World Day of Prayer service will now be held at Marlow Bottom Methodist Chapel on Friday 2nd March at 2pm. The service has been prepared by the Christian ladies of Suriname and the theme is; All God's Creation is Very Good!

CONCERTS AT ALL SAINTS MARLOW

10th March 7.30pm Chiltern Concert Band with SWBGS Choir.

17th March 7.30pm Rotary hosted concert with music from Chiltern Music Academy.

Tickets Marlow Information Centre.

“**Footprints**” A service for those who have lost a child at any stage of life, from pregnancy to adulthood. **Friday 2nd March 7.30pm St. Peter & St. Paul Church, Medmenham.** Refreshments after the service. Details Revd.Sue Morton 01491 639286 or suemorton131@gmail.com

WYCOMBE DEANERY RETREAT DAY

Wed 23rd May 10-3pm @ The Mill House Turville. Lunch & refreshments provided. £5pp
Contact suemorton131@gmail.com tel:01491 639286

Readings for next week: **1 Peter 3: 18-end Mark 1: 9-15**

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



four churches,
one vision

TOGETHER IN PRAYER 4U TEAM

Week beginning 11th February 2018

A Prayer for Guidance Living God, you do not compel us to serve you but you invite us rather to respond to your love; you do not impose your will upon us or dictate the course we should take, but instead you offer your guidance, giving us signposts to walk by, yet ultimately leaving the decisions we must make in our hands. We thank you for this wonderful expression of trust, this freedom to choose and discover for ourselves and we ask that you will help us to use it wisely; trusting you in return, and seeking, so far as we understand it, to honour your will. Give us wisdom and courage to make the right decisions at the right time and in the right place, to the glory of your name. Amen

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 our schools, teachers and pupils, for the many children's activities we offer and **pray** that all will enjoy a brief respite to refresh and renew this half term week.

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 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. **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, and for 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 as we take time to review the last year and plan for the year ahead. Grant all members, patience discernment and tolerance give each respect for other's opinions and grace to reach a consensus that will enable all our congregations to feel part of a generous and inclusive church community, where all are valued and loved equally and all voices are heard. Guide us to use our resources wisely.

Pray for those who are sick in body mind or spirit and all those who struggle to make sense of their lives, 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. **Pray** for those recovering in hospital or at home; those waiting for treatment; those coming to terms with disability or changed lifestyles. **Pray** for those who have recently died and those who are still missed and give thanks for their lives; may those who mourn them know the peace and love of Christ and his healing presence in their lives.