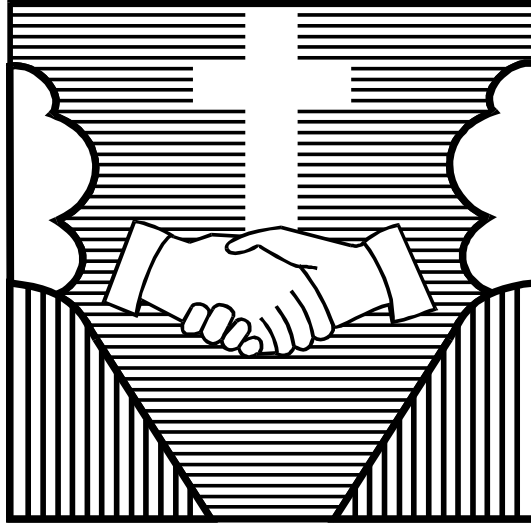


**The Valley**



**Church**

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

**18<sup>th</sup> February 2018 – First Sunday of Lent**

**09.30 Holy Communion in The Chapel  
11.00 Lantern at St. Mary's with Graham & Sami Watts**

**Services – February/March**

<b>25 Feb</b>	<b>09.30 Holy Communion with Prayer Ministry with Sami Watts 16.00 Lantern Lights with Graham &amp; Sami Watts</b>
<b>04 March</b>	<b>09.30 Holy Communion with Sami Watts 11.00 Lantern in The Chapel with Graham &amp; Sami Watts</b>
<b>11 March</b>	<b>10.00 Lantern service at St. Mary's for Mothering Sunday</b>

# NEWS AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

There will be a prayer walk at 7pm tomorrow from 165 Marlow Bottom. All welcome.

## **Prayer Meeting for the New Building Project on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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, 27<sup>th</sup> February, 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 time of preparation. 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 5<sup>th</sup>, 7.45pm at All Saints' Church 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.

**Have you ever thought about being confirmed?** The next Confirmation Service in our area is on Sunday March 4<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

**10<sup>th</sup> March** 7.30pm Chiltern Concert Band with SWBGS Choir.

**17<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> March 7.30pm St. Peter & St. Paul Church, Medmenham**. Refreshments after the service. Details Revd.Sue Morton 01491 639286 or [suemorton131@gmail.com](mailto:suemorton131@gmail.com)

## **WYCOMBE DEANERY RETREAT DAY**

**Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> May 10-3pm @ The Mill House Turville**. Lunch & refreshments provided. £5pp  
Contact [suemorton131@gmail.com](mailto:suemorton131@gmail.com) tel:01491 639286

Readings for next week: Romans 4: 13-end Mark 8: 31-end

***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 18<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

**A Prayer for Lent** You, Lord Jesus, knew great power, to heal, to transform, to proclaim the reign of God. So you met great temptations. The wrong way, glittering and possible, was open; you could rule if you chose, in majesty and wonder, more victorious than Alexander, more imperial than Caesar. But you said No, simply, decisively, forever, for us. Holy Spirit of God, enable us to respond to temptation with the strength of your word within us, so that we may hold firm to our calling and take your better way in faithfulness. 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 through the Small Groups and the Lent Groups as we move into this special time in the Church year

**Give thanks** for our schools, teachers and pupils, administrators and volunteers for the many children's activities we offer and **pray** that all will return refreshed after the half term break.

**Give thanks** for the quiet moments this coming Lent to reflect on the magnitude of God's gift of his son and the impact his life and death should have on our lives and how we need to respond as a church and individually.

**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 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