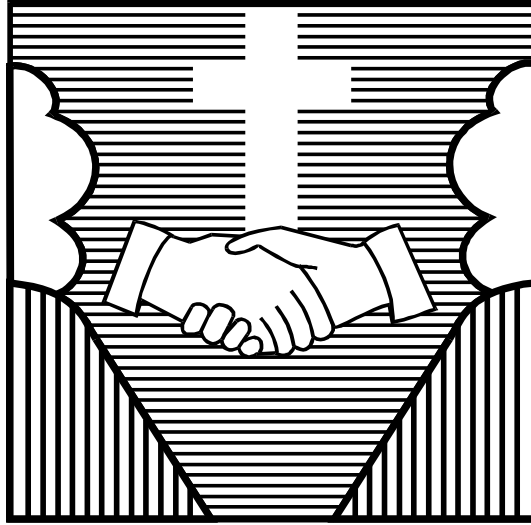


# The Valley



# Church

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

## 25<sup>th</sup> February 2018 – Second Sunday of Lent

09.30 Holy Communion with Prayer Ministry with Sami Watts  
16.00 Lantern Lights with Graham & Sami Watts

## Services in March

04 March 09.30 Holy Communion with Sami Watts  
11.00 Lantern in The Chapel with Graham & Sami Watts

11 March 10.00 Lantern All Age Service at St. Mary's for  
Mothering Sunday

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

25 March 09.30 Holy Communion with Prayer Ministry  
16.00 Lantern Lights with Graham & Sami Watts

## NEWS AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### **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.

**Sanctuary at All Saints Bisham Thursday 1st March at 8pm** – space for peace & stillness.

**Women's World Day of Prayer** service will 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!

**NEXT WOMENS BREAKFAST, SATURDAY 10th MARCH 9-11am** All Saints Church Hall. Speaker Wendy Bull. Suggested donation £5 To reserve a place, please give names to Parish Office 01628 481806 [parish.office@4u-team.org](mailto:parish.office@4u-team.org)

### **Confirmation Service**

The next Confirmation Service in our area is on **Sunday March 4<sup>th</sup> at 6pm**, at St Mark's Church in Bourne End. We have a number of young people and adults being confirmed and it would be great if you could come along to support them.

### **Children and Communion**

As you may well know the Marlow Anglican Team is discussing the admission of children to Holy Communion. The Church of England decided 15 years ago that children could take Communion before they were confirmed if 1) the Church PCC had agreed to the policy 2) the child had been baptised 3) any Child taking Communion must first go through a time of preparation. As part of our process the Team Council has invited Yvonne Morris, the Diocesan Children's Advisor, to come and talk about the issues involved to anyone in our parish 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. We will also be discussing the issue at our own church council and at an open meeting for St. Mary's and Lantern on Monday 23rd April.

**LENT COURSE** - Graeme Slocombe is 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 is running on **Tuesdays, 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](#). (07785 262078 or email [graeme\\_slocombe50@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:graeme_slocombe50@hotmail.co.uk)). Although the course has started you are welcome to join for whichever evenings you can make.

**Smallgroups 4 Summer** As we start to see the signs of spring and better weather to come it is time to start thinking about Small groups for the summer term. We would like to have our usual mix of groups providing opportunities to meet others, have fun and learn something new, from social and interest groups to courses and Bible study. We would especially like to see some that make the most of the warmer weather. So have a think if you would like to lead a group and what ideas you have. Submissions for groups must be completed by 16th March. For a form or if you have questions please email [smallgroups@4u-team.org](mailto:smallgroups@4u-team.org)

## 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 2nd 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

**Vacancy for a Regional Manager (Church Resources) at Embrace the Middle East.** One year fixed term flexible part time position working within Embrace’s Fundraising & Marketing Team to develop, produce & market engaging content for church & other faith-based resources, helping to build relationships within church structures & congregations. More details via our jobs page on [www.embrace.org/vacancies](http://www.embrace.org/vacancies).

Readings for next week:      Exodus 20: 1-17      John 2: 13-22

***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***

# **TOGETHER IN PRAYER 4U TEAM**

**Week beginning 25<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** for Ava and Jax who will be baptised today, for their families and friends

**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 the suffering people in Eastern Ghouta, that those with the power and authority will cease their inhumane bombardment and allow aid to reach the innocent victims of this violent conflict

**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. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

**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