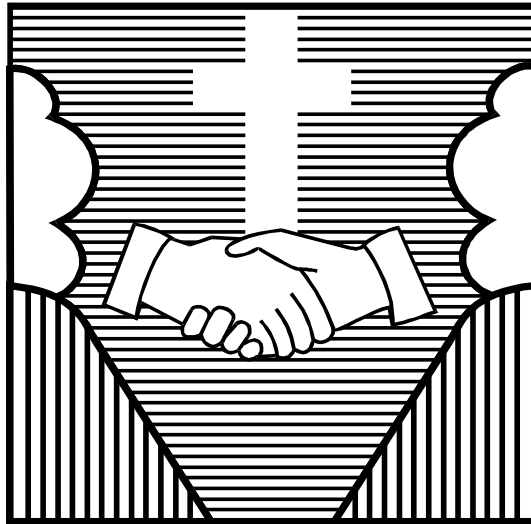


The Valley



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 March 2018 – Mothering Sunday

10.00 Lantern All Age Service at St. Mary's with Graham & Sami Watts

Services in March

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| 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 and Prayer Ministry with
Roland Slade & Sarah Fitzgerald |
| | 16.00 | Lantern Lights with Graham & Sami Watts |
| | 18.30 | Be Still - a time for reflection - at the Chapel |
| 28 March | 20.00 | Evening Prayer with Sarah Fitzgerald |

NEWS AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

John Holles:

'Many of you will have heard by now that our friend and brother, John Holles, died on Thursday 1st March, peacefully at Harwood House care home. We all have many memories of John, who was a faithful member of St. Mary's from the time it was first opened right up until his death. We are thankful to God for all he did as a server, as a church member, local historian and simply for who he was. If you have particular thoughts of John that you would like to share, do please pass them on to Sami and Graham as we hope to be able to share some of his church life at the funeral. A date is yet to be confirmed for this event, we will keep you informed. In the meantime, please for member John's sister Celia and all the wider family in their grief. May John rest in peace and rise in glory.'

There will be an opportunity to meet to pray at the Chapel tomorrow 1-2pm.

You are invited to a presentation of THE PARISH GIVING SCHEME by Jonathan Farnhill, Director of Generous Giving, Oxford Diocese at 7:00 PM Tuesday, 20th March at All Saints Church, Bisham. The Parish Giving Scheme is an excellent means of encouraging greater generosity within your church enabling you to give by direct debit. There are significant benefits to this scheme compared to other ways of giving. Gift aid is automatically processed every month, saving considerable time & improving cash flow. Givers can choose to automatically increase their giving by the rate of inflation every year. This tackles the problem of static giving, where people's giving ordinarily remains the same year on year whilst the costs of the church continually rise. Givers can also choose to give anonymously. Over 20 dioceses have adopted the Parish Giving Scheme, & all are seeing increases as a result.

'**Be Still**' our second lay led reflective service will be at the Chapel at 6.30pm on Sunday 25th March.

Sabbatical As she will have been ordained for 10 years this summer the Diocese have granted Sarah Fitzgerald a 3 month sabbatical. She will be away from Parish duties from 11th April until 16th July. During this time her duties will be covered by other members of the ministry team. As well as taking time to renew her spiritual life and go on retreat, she will be reading and visiting other churches to reflect on what makes worship that connects us to God and the world around us. She and Richard are also going to Tanzania for a month to visit projects supported by Workaid and Compassion and taking some holiday. Please pray that all goes well whilst she is away and that this time will re-invigorate her ministry.

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, 13th and 20th March at 7.30-9pm.** Venue - [3 Badgebury Rise, Marlow Bottom, SL7 3QA](#). (07785 262078).
E-mail: graeme_slocombe50@hotmail.co.uk). Although the course has started you are welcome to join for whichever evenings you can make.

Churches Together in Marlow

Copies of the latest newsletter are available at the back of the church.

HANDY CROSS RESURFACING work has been halted but will resume on the weekend beginning Friday 16th March.

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

CONCERTS AT ALL SAINTS MARLOW

17th March 7.30pm Rotary hosted concert with music from Chiltern Music Academy. Tickets Marlow Information Centre.

WYCOMBE DEANERY RETREAT DAY

Wed 23rd May 10-3pm @ The Mill House Turville. Lunch & refreshments provided. £5pp
Contact 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.embraceme.org/vacancies.

Readings for next week: Jeremiah 31: 31-34 John 12: 20-33

***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***

St Mary's
Marlow
Bottom



four churches,
one vision

TOGETHER IN PRAYER 4U TEAM

Week beginning 11th March 2018

A Prayer for Mothering Sunday: Thank you, Lord, for our mothers. We remember today their loving care and their ceaseless love for us. May we show them by our gifts, our words and our actions that we love them and care about them too. Father, we thank you for the family of the Church. May they know your blessing and strength as they care for others.

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.

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.

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. **Pray** for doctors and nurses and technicians who use their God given skills to heal and mend, those working with terminally ill patients offering practical help and compassionate understanding. **Give thanks** for those who have been healed and restored to health