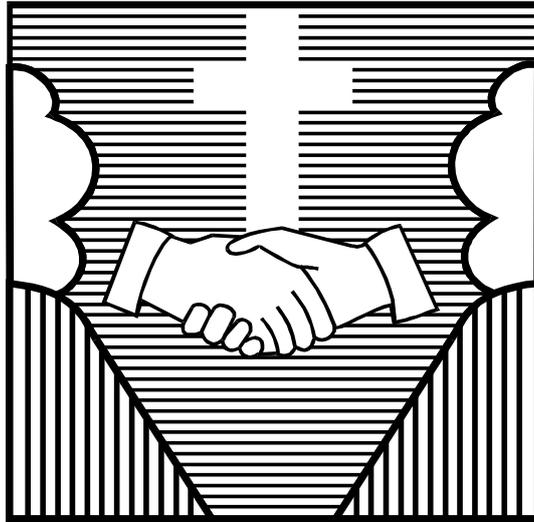


# The Valley



# 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> March 2018 – Palm Sunday

- 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

## Services in March & April

- 28 March 20.00 Evening Prayer with Sarah Fitzgerald
- 29 March 20.00 Tenebrae Service for Maundy Thursday
- 01 April 09.30 Holy Communion for Easter Day with Graham & Sami Watts  
11.00 Lantern in The Chapel with Graham & Sami Watts
- 08 April 09.30 Holy Communion with Mieke Gaynor
- 15 April 9.30 Holy Communion (Marlow Bottom Methodist Church)  
10.30 Coffee and cake at St. Mary's  
11.00 Lantern celebration, including the Church Annual Meeting at St. Mary's

# 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. His funeral service will be on **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 1.30pm at All Saints Marlow** where he was a much valued member of the bell ringing team for 45 years. The Tower will be ringing a tribute in his memory. Please remember John's sister Celia and all the wider family in their grief. May John rest in peace and rise in glory. After the service, all are warmly invited back to the Barn Club in Marlow Bottom for refreshments.'

There are plenty of opportunities across the Parish to worship, pray and reflect during **Holy Week and on Easter Sunday**, including the joint Churches Together in Marlow events on Good Friday. A full list of services and other events within the Parish can be found on the 4U Team website at <http://4u-team.org/easter>

## **Churches Together remembering Good Friday**

Everyone is invited to meet in Higginson Park for a short act of worship at 10.30 am. This will be followed by a Walk of Witness up the High Street to the Methodist Church, where there will be a service for all ages at 11.15 am.

## **Sami's new role**

Many of you will have heard that Sami has recently accepted a new role as chaplain at St. George's School in Ascot to work there 2 days a week during term time. She is taking this role **ALONGSIDE** (not instead of) ministry here in Marlow! Sami is looking forward to the challenge - do ask her about it if you want to know more. The new job starts on April 16th.

**April 15th is our Church Annual Meeting**, which we are including in a Lantern service. Whether you are part of the 9.30 or 11am congregations, we warmly encourage you to come along from 10.30 for coffee and cake, with the meeting and service starting at 11. We will reflect on the year past and the year ahead, within the context of praise and prayer. There will be provision for the children during the more adult part of our time together. Reports will be available after Sunday 1st April on different areas in the life of the church, so do please take a copy of these to read ahead of the meeting, and bring your questions and thoughts as we come together that day.

## **Meeting about Children and Communion**

As you may well be aware, our team of churches is in a process of discussing the admission of children to Holy Communion before they have been confirmed. There has already been an open meeting for the whole parish with Yvonne Morris from Oxford Diocese presenting what this might mean and how other churches have gone about it. We have also begun to discuss it on the church council. But if you have questions and concerns about this change of policy, then you are warmly invited to an open meeting for all those connected with the Church in Marlow Bottom to explore the issues further. This will take place at 8pm on Monday 23rd April at St. Mary's. Do come along.

**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 11<sup>th</sup> April until 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Lighthouse Marlow 2018 – 30 July to 3 August**

For those who are not aware, Lighthouse is a Christian holiday club for primary school age children run by volunteers. Helping at Lighthouse is great fun and very rewarding, there are lots of jobs that need doing and so something for everyone. Registration to help at Marlow Lighthouse is now open. If you helped last year you should have received an email with a link to register again. If you got this email please do use the link – even if it is to advise us that you can't help this year. If you are a new helper (or one from a previous year) please register at <https://lighthousecentral.org> – select Marlow from the drop-down list and then complete your details.

We are also looking for some administrative help in the months leading up to Lighthouse, and are particularly seeking people to help with fundraising, checking DBS forms and communications (including social media). If you want to know more about these and other admin opportunities, or just want to know more about Marlow Lighthouse, please contact Sarah Jones, Chairman Marlow Lighthouse ([sarah.j.jones@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.j.jones@gmail.com) or 07939 106564).

### **Churches Together in Marlow**

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

### **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: Acts 10: 34-43 Mark 16: 1-8**

***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 25<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

**A Prayer for Palm Sunday** Jesus, King of the universe, ride on in humble majesty: Lord, this Palm Sunday may I recognize in you the Lord who comes to his world, and join with full heart in the children's "hosanna". Ride on through conflict and debate, ride on through sweaty prayer and betrayal of friends: Lord, this Palm Sunday forgive me my evasion of truth, my carelessness of your honour; my weakness, which leave me sleeping even while in others you suffer and are anguished; my cowardice that does not risk the consequences of publicly acknowledging you as Lord. Ride on to the empty tomb and your rising in triumph, ride on to raise up your Church, a new body for your service; ride on, King Jesus, to renew the whole earth in your image, in compassion come to help us.

**Pray** for our Church Council as we take time to review and celebrate 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. Give thanks for those standing down, for their gifts and time, pray for new representatives joining the councils

**Give thanks** for the quiet moments this 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. Feel welcome to explore the Art.Spirituality display.

**Pray** as we prepare for Passiontide with special services to mark the events in Holy Week. 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 especially at this time. 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 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 security, love and hope 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.

**Pray** for those who are sick in body mind or spirit and all those who struggle to make sense of their lives. **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.