



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

1st April 2018 – Easter Day

**09.30 Holy Communion for Easter Day with Sami Watts
11.00 Lantern in The Chapel with Graham & Sami Watts**

Services in April

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**

22 April 09.30 Holy Communion with Prayer Ministry with Dave Bull

16.00 Lantern Lights with Graham & Sami Watts

29 April 09.30 Holy Communion with Graham Watts

11.00 Lantern Community Outreach with Graham & Sami Watts

NEWS AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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 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.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will take place on Wednesday 25th April at 8pm in All Saints' Church Hall, The Causeway, Marlow. All welcome.

Godparents' Sunday - If you are a Godparent, Parent or Godchild you are invited to a special celebration at **3pm on Sunday 29th April at All Saints Marlow**. Bring your baptism candles and a photo from your baptism day to peg on the memory line. There will be a short service, children's activities and tea & cake! RSVP to The Parish Office by Fri 20th April.

Friday Lunchtime Concerts at All Saints Marlow will start again on Friday 4th May with violinist Fumi Otsuki. Light lunches available from 12.30pm. Details of further concerts to follow.

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

Readings for next week: Acts 4: 32-35 John 20: 19-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 1st April 2018

A Prayer for Easter Living God, we praise you for the great truth of Easter – the message that your love will not be defeated. When human evil had done its worst, despite every effort to frustrate your purpose, still your will triumphed! The stone was rolled away, the tomb was empty; Christ had risen! May that truth fire us each day with new hope, new confidence, and new enthusiasm, knowing that whatever obstacles we may face and whatever may fight against us, there is nothing that will finally be able to thwart your purpose or to deny your saving purpose, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 and inspiring services this Holy Week, especially the Good Friday Meditations guiding us 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** that we will 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 to mend.

Pray for renewed hope and faith in a bright future in the light of the Risen Christ