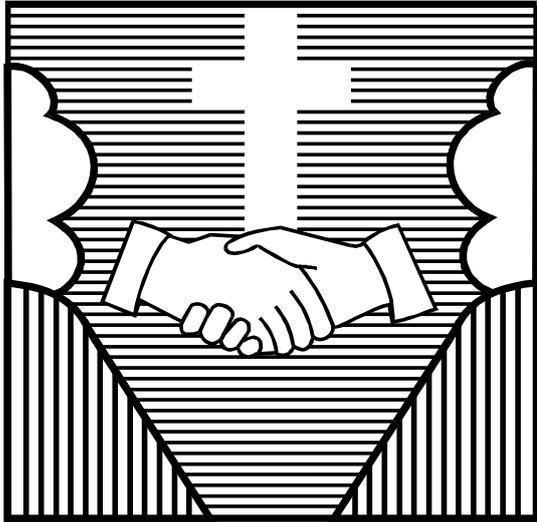


# The Valley



# Church



# Lantern

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

## **8th July 2018 – 6th after Trinity**

**08 July 09.30 Holy Communion with Mieke Gaynor & Anne Morse**

### **Services in July**

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

**22 July 09.30 Holy Communion with Prayer Ministry with Sami Watts  
18.30 Be Still – reflective service at The Chapel**

**29 July 09.30 Holy Communion with Roland Slade  
11.00 Lantern Community Outreach Service with Graham & Sami**

# NEWS AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

There will be an opportunity for early risers to meet to pray at 165 Marlow Bottom tomorrow at 7.00am.

Our next afternoon tea will be a **Strawberry and Scones Tea** at the home of Jennie and Howard Lewis on Saturday 18th August 4.30 - 6.30. All welcome. More details later.

**Summer drop-ins** are being planned during the month of August. All are welcome to get together to share light refreshments in people's homes/gardens at various times of the day. If you would like to host a drop-in, please contact Jennie Lewis [jenlewis29@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jenlewis29@hotmail.co.uk)  
Details of dates and venues will be published soon.

**News About Alex** Alex's last Sunday with us is **15<sup>th</sup> July**, so we'll be having a barbecue from 1pm at Graham and Sami's to say goodbye and wish him well. Everybody welcome. If you are able to bring anything along, please let Sami know. Alex will be coming back to help at Lighthouse.

## Church Clear up

We are having a church clean up morning on July 21<sup>st</sup> from 9.30-11.30. If you are able to pop along for an hour to help out inside or outside, cleaning or clearing, washing or fixing then we would love it! Literally the more the merrier! Children welcome, even encouraged refreshments will be provided.

## Gabrielle Smith - update

Gabrielle is continuing to make a recovery at home from her operations. She and Tony are immensely grateful for the support and generosity of their friends in the parish. Although Gabrielle is doing well, her recovery will take many months and she will not be returning to public ministry any time soon. She hopes to resume attendance at Sunday services from time to time and is up to occasional visitors, but asks for understanding that she will be taking things very gently and is certainly not able to offer any pastoral support to others at this time. Thank you for your continued love, patience and prayerful support of Tony, Gabrielle and Caroline. *Dave*

## Lighthouse Marlow - 30 July to 3 August

Thanks to all the volunteers who have registered. Currently we still need volunteers in the following areas:

- Trinity House (register as Lighthouse Keeper 10+)
- Sport & Drama
- Lighthouse Keepers - if we get more we can take more children

At the moment we have enough Lamplighters for the Lighthouses we can run. To register to help: <https://lighthousecentral.org/forms/leader-registration>

Childrens' registration. We are already oversubscribed in most age groups though we will be running a waiting list. The children of helpers who are helping for more than one day will be prioritised for places. **If you have registered to help and have not registered your children please do so ASAP.**

<https://lighthousecentral.org/forms/child-registration> If you have a specific question please email [marlow@lighthousecentral.org](mailto:marlow@lighthousecentral.org)

**Children and Communion** On **July 10<sup>th</sup>** the Team Council of the Parish will be discussing and voting on whether to accept the policy to admit Children to Communion before Confirmation across the Parish. If you have not yet expressed any views on this please could you let Rev Graham Watts know as soon as possible ([graham.watts@4u-team.org](mailto:graham.watts@4u-team.org) 01628 440106). You may prefer to, and find it easy to, speak to a Church Warden or one of the Church Council in your Church, please feel able to do this and they will pass your thoughts on. It is still possible to listen to the presentation on this subject given by Yvonne Morris the Diocesan Children's advisor, you can find it here <http://4u-team.org/communion/> as well as other information you might find helpful.

## Small Groups

With the summer term coming to an end this month, we're already looking ahead and planning for the new slate of small groups to start in September. If you're already leading a group, we hope you'll want to keep going. If you've been thinking about leading a group but never quite got round to it, think no more! Just drop a line to [smallgroups@4u-team.org](mailto:smallgroups@4u-team.org) with your idea and we'll send you a Google form to complete. We're looking for a whole range of groups - activities indoor and out, age specific from the very young to very old, courses that follow a specific curriculum, and Bible studies in all shapes and sizes. Christian life works better in community and we believe small groups are central to that. We hope you'll consider helping our community grow by being a small group leader. Note that the sign up cut off is 31st July.

**Marlow Refugee Action – Charity Garden Party, Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July 3pm – 7pm** come and join us for tea & cakes or chill with a glass of wine at Fairlawn, Gossmore Close, Marlow SL71QG. Children welcome and parking available on Gossmore Lane. Offers of cakes welcome!

Our next **'Be Still' reflective service** will be on Sunday 22nd July at 6.30pm at the Chapel, a time of peace, calm and quiet amongst our busyness.

**Churches Together In Marlow** Copies of the latest newsletter, with reports on Love Marlow and Christian Aid Week, are available at the back of the church. **The launch service for this year's Lighthouse is in the main tent at Holy Trinity School on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July at 6.45 pm.**

**In September**, our monthly pattern of services will be changing. We talked about this at the church AGM and it has also been discussed by the Church Council (and the Methodist Church Council). Nevertheless, change can feel difficult for many of us, it is hard letting go of what we find familiar and trying to do things differently. Let's pause to remember the positive reasons WHY things are changing:

- the 11 o'clock 'Lantern' has grown a lot in the 3 years since it started and we feel it is time for this to be a weekly service
- we are working in closer partnership with our Methodist brothers and sisters as we journey towards 'One church' and one church building
- to bring the 9.30 (Anglican) and 10.30 (Methodist) congregations together on a weekly basis will be really encouraging if everyone gets involved and will enable the earlier service to grow in numbers and in depth of relationship.

So, although it is going to be quite a challenge, the possible outcomes are good!

Basically, there will still be a service every week at 9.30am. On first and 3rd Sundays that will be Church of England Communion at St. Mary's. On 2nd and 4th Sundays, it will be at the chapel. It will be Morning Worship most Sundays, and Communion occasionally. At 11.00, there will also be a service every Sunday, aimed at families and catering for kids. On first and third Sundays, this will be at the Chapel and there will be groups for children. On 2nd and 4th Sundays this will be All together at St. Mary's. Sometimes the 4th Sunday will be a 'Service Sunday' when we go out into the community. Other months it will be an all-age communion. The details will be advertised at both churches as usual, on Facebook, on the website and via this newsletter.

To be honest, the most important thing to say is: PLEASE GIVE IT A GO! Please make the effort to come to different services, even if they might not be in the building you are used to, or with the people you are used to, or even in the style you are used to. You would be amazed at what God might teach you through you taking a little bit of a risk! Remember this promise: 'By this shall all people know that you are my disciples, if you love one another' John 13:35 And this command: 'Let us not give up meeting together, let us encourage one another' Hebrews 10:25. If you want to talk to us more about any of this, please call us and we will come and chat it through with you. Thank you, love Sami and Graham 01628 440106

**Readings for next week: Daniel 7: 1-14 Mark 6: 14-29**

# **TOGETHER IN PRAYER 4U TEAM**

**Week beginning 8th July 2018**

**A Prayer for the Blessings of Life** Lord of all blessings, as we walk about your world, let us know ourselves blessed at every turn; Blessed in the spring sun and leaves; Blessed in the summer breeze; Blessed in rain and shafts of sunlight; Blessed in the moving stars; Blessed in the turning world beneath our feet; Blessed in silence; Blessed in sleep; Blessed in our children, our parents and our friends; Blessed in conversation and the human voice; Blessed in waiting for the bus or train or traffic lights; Blessed in music; Blessed in singing voices; Blessed in the song of birds; Blessed in the cry that pierces the heart; Blessed in the smile of strangers; Blessed in the touch of love; Blessed in laughter; Blessed in pain, in darkness, in grief; Blessed in the desert and the frost; Blessed in waiting for the Summer; Blessed in waiting and waiting and waiting, Lord of all blessing, we bless you.

**Pray for Lighthouse** Three weeks to go until 14<sup>th</sup> Marlow Lighthouse, so keep Lighthouse in your prayers. This week **pray** for all the Team Leaders, the Lighthouse Keepers, the Age Group/Teachers, Drama Lead and team; Games Lead and team; Creche Lead and team; Craft Lead and team, Refreshment Lead and team: Technical Lead and team; Mainstage Lead and team; PrayerTeam; Site Lead and team.

**Pray** for our Church Council and grant all members, patience discernment and tolerance, to give 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 our staff team, for Gabrielle as she recovers from surgery; for Sarah as her sabbatical continues, for their respective families and friends in their support and concern.

**Pray** for Dave as he prepares for his sabbatical, **pray** for Sami, Graham, Roland, Mieke and the lay ministry team as they come together to cover additional duties.

**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 the many children involved in school clubs, after school clubs, Sunday school and daytime activities and all the volunteers who work to provide the teaching, the activities and the fun in knowing Jesus as a friend. **Pray** for Anna as she prepares for a new future.

**Pray** for those who are sick in body mind or spirit and all those who struggle to make sense of their lives, and are facing personal times of crisis. **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 know the peace and love of Christ. **Pray** for doctors, nurses and technicians and carers who use their God given skills to heal and to mend. **Give thanks** for those who are healing

***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***