



Lantern

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

15th July 2018 – 7th after Trinity

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

Services in July

22 July 09.30 Holy Communion with Prayer Ministry with Sami Watts

**29 July 09.30 Holy Communion with Roland Slade
11.00 Lantern Community Outreach Service with Graham & Sami
18.30 Be Still – reflective service at The Chapel**

NEWS AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

All welcome to Alex's farewell barbecue at 165 Marlow Bottom at 1pm today (15th July)

There will be an opportunity to pray together at the Chapel 1-2pm tomorrow (16th July)

Church Clear up

We are having a church clean up morning on July 21st 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.

Our next '**Be Still**' reflective service will be on Sunday 29th July at 6.30pm at the Chapel, a time of peace, calm and quiet amongst our busyness.

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 Details of dates and venues will be published soon.

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.

One for your diaries – A Quiz Night at St. Mary's on Saturday October 13th at 7.30pm

There are two purposes for this: 1. So we can invite friends from outside the Church to come and be part of the community for an evening building relationships. 2. To raise money for the Church mission to Marlow Bottom. There is also a third reason, 3. TO HAVE FUN! So stick it in your diaries and come and join us in October

SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERT at All Saints Marlow today at 3pm with organist Rhidian Jones. There will be a retiring collection and tea & cake! A new series of concerts will start again on 9th September.

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 - 3 August

Thank you to all who have been praying for more helpers, in particular, for a replacement Age Group Leader for Year 2. I am delighted that these gaps have now been filled and, as a consequence, we have been able to take some of the children from our waiting list. Now the focus moves to things we need to run the Lighthouse week!

This year the theme is SurBible Island, and we plan to turn the Lighthouse marquees into desert island paradises! So if you have any inflatable palm trees, parrots etc lying around we would love to borrow them. Specifically, this year, we need **shoe boxes** - any size. We also would welcome donations of felt pens, glue sticks, plain paper, children's scissors, tea, soft drinks, biscuits etc. Also toilet rolls and hand towels - we use a lot! I will set up a box for donations in the porch of the church. Thank you in anticipation.

If any one wishes to give a financial gift to Lighthouse Marlow please get in touch; we are a registered charity and can reclaim Gift Aid on all donations. *Many thanks. Sarah Jones, Chairman, Lighthouse Marlow*

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 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.

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 29th 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 9: 1-19 John 20: 1-2, 11-18

***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 15th 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 Two weeks to go until 14th Marlow Lighthouse, so keep Lighthouse in your prayers. This week **pray** for all the Young Leaders, the Lamplighters more than ever this year, who will be assisting in every area there is to guide and support the children in their care every minute of the Lighthouse day. **Pray** for the hundreds of children registered to attend.

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 she returns from her sabbatical. **Pray** for Dave as he prepares to start his sabbatical and for Helen and the family. **Pray** for Sarah, Sami, Graham, Roland, Mieke and the lay ministry team as they come together to cover additional duties. **Pray** for Anna as she prepares for a new future.

Give thanks for the safe deliverance of the boys and their coach from the cave and for the courage and skill of their rescuers **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 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.