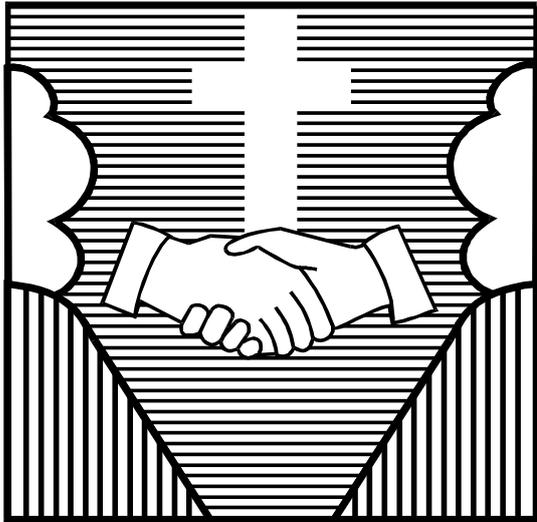


**The Valley**



**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**

**22nd July 2018 – 8th after Trinity**

**09.30 Holy Communion with Prayer Ministry with Sami Watts**

**Services in July & August**

- 29 July 09.30 Holy Communion with Roland Slade**  
**11.00 Lantern Community Outreach Service with Graham & Sami**  
**18.30 Be Still – reflective service in The Chapel**
- 05 Aug 09.30 Holy Communion with Graham Watts**
- 12 Aug 10.30 Holy Communion in The Chapel**
- 19 Aug 09.30 Holy Communion (Marlow Refugee Action)**
- 26 Aug 10.30 Holy Communion in The Chapel**

## NEWS AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

There will be a prayer walk from 165 Marlow Bottom at 7pm tomorrow evening. All welcome.

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. Everyone welcome

**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.

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 13<sup>th</sup> 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

**CONCERT DATE FOR YOUR DIARY at All Saints Marlow**  
**Bucks County Youth Orchestra Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> July 7.30 pm.** Tickets £5 on the door.  
Music by Dvorak, Arnold & Rimsky Korsakov.

### **Lighthouse Marlow 30 July - 3 August**

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*

**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.**

### **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.**

**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 12: 1-13 John 6: 1-21**

***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 22nd 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** One week to go until 14<sup>th</sup> Marlow Lighthouse, so keep Lighthouse in your prayers. This week **pray** for EVERYONE at LIGHTHOUSE that the week will be filled with fun, laughter, love and friendship, surrounded by God's blessings and overflowing with the Holy Spirit and the love of Jesus.

**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 and to do our best for our children and young people. **Pray** for Millie and George who will be baptised today, for their families and supporters.

**Pray** for our staff team, for Gabrielle as she recovers from surgery; for Sarah as she leads the team as Dave starts his sabbatical and for Helen and the family. **Pray** for Sami, Graham, Roland, Mieke and the lay ministry team as they come together to cover additional duties and for our Church Wardens Julie and Ruth at this time of additional responsibility

**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. For teachers and administrators and all pupils as they start the summer holidays, may they travel safely and take time to refresh and relax.

**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.