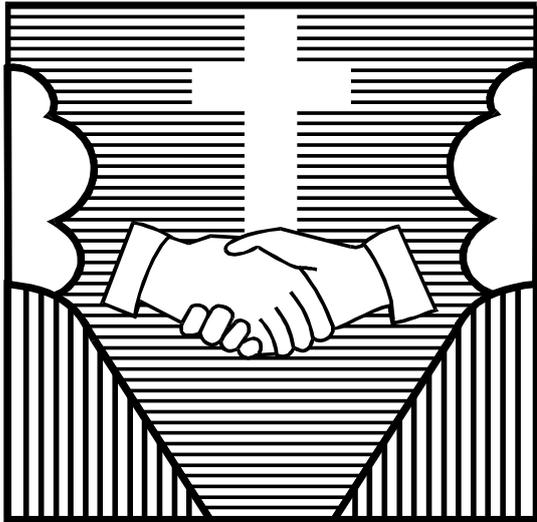


The Valley



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**

12th August 2018 – 11th after Trinity

10.30 Holy Communion in The Chapel

Services in August

**19 Aug 09.30 Holy Communion with Graham Watts
(Marlow Refugee Action presentation)**

26 Aug 10.30 Holy Communion in The Chapel

NEWS AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SUMMER SOCIALS

Tonight there is a Cheese & wine evening at **Graham & Sami's at 7.30pm**

Our next afternoon tea for St Mary's and the Chapel will be a Strawberry and Scones Tea at the home of Jennie and Howard Lewis, **29 Redshotts Close, Marlow** on **Saturday 18th August 4.30 - 6.30**. All welcome.

"What I did on my sabbatical." A talk with photographs by Sarah Fitzgerald about what she has been doing whilst on sabbatical. Wednesday 22nd August 7.30pm at St John the Baptist Church, Little Marlow. All welcome

On September 9th at the 9.30 service, Roland Slade will be talking about his time in Tanzania this summer, visiting the Compassion Project where some in the Team sponsor children

Alpha Course

The Alpha Course will be running again in Marlow, and Marlow Bottom, from September until December. The Marlow course is on Wednesday evenings from 7.45-9.45pm in the Church Hall, from **26 September until 12 December** (excluding half term week). The **Marlow Bottom course will be on Tuesday evenings**, beginning in the same week. The evening starts with a meal together, and goes on to explore questions about life, faith and meaning. Friendships are often made in the process! Please pray about who you could invite to a course, and whether you could offer time to help with serving food, leading a discussion group or welcoming newcomers.

For more information, and to sign up, please contact Rev Roland Slade: roland.slade@4u-team.org (Marlow course) or Rev Graham Watts: graham.watts@4u-team.org (Marlow Bottom course).

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

Sabbaticals - what and why?

Clergy in the Church of England are granted a sabbatical of 12 weeks away from parish work every 10 years after being ordained. A sabbatical is not a holiday! It is a period away from the pressures of normal work for the purposes of retreat, rest and study. The goal is that clergy will return refreshed, re-envisioned and reinvigorated for the next decade of work. As many of you will know, Sarah Fitzgerald has recently returned from her sabbatical. Dave Bull is now taking his - his study element will be how the church can communicate the good news of Jesus to the Instagram generation. Detailed plans are in place to cover Dave's absence, so it should be "service as usual". Please remember to pray for the clergy team during this period. *Thank you!*

In September, our monthly pattern of services will be changing

(Please see insert)

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 & Graham 01628 440106

Readings next week: Proverbs 9: 1-6 John 6: 51-58

***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 12th August 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.

Give thanks for Lighthouse. For the best Lighthouse ever give thanks, for the joy, growing and sheer Spirit give thanks to God. For keeping everyone safe give thanks to God, for the stamina of all the helpers in the heat give thanks and praise to God.

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 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** for those all those involved in the tragic fires in Greece and California and across the Iberian peninsula, who have lost loved ones and their homes and now face hardship and deep grief. **Pray** for the people of Laos involved in the major floods resulting from a bursting dam the loss of life, the thousands homeless and the many still marooned without help or sustenance. **Pray** for the people of Yemen, Syria and Columbia. Pray the truce in the violence and unrest in Kimberley will hold.

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 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.