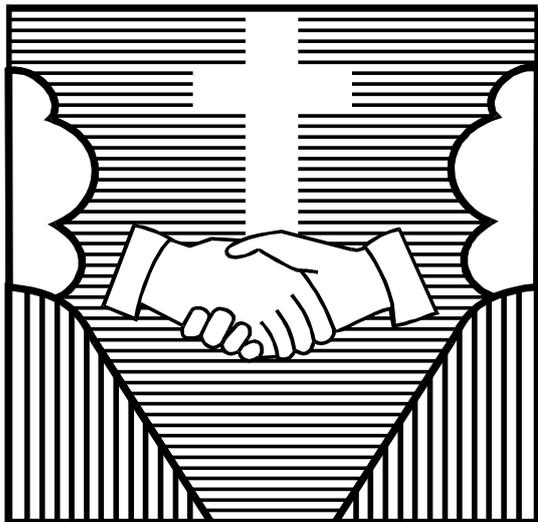


The Valley



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

2nd September 2018 – 14th after Trinity

9.30 Holy Communion at St Mary's with Roland Slade

Services in September

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 09 Sept | 09.30 Holy Communion at St Mary's
Roland Slade will talk about Tanzania and the
Compassion Project |
| 16 Sept | 09.30 Holy Communion at St Mary's
11.00 Worship with children's groups at the Chapel |
| 23 Sept | 09.30 Service at the Chapel
11.00 All Age Worship at St Mary's |
| 30 Sept | 11.00 Everyone together Harvest Service at the Chapel |

NEWS AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

House group Our 'Learning and Sharing' house group will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month as from September. Dates will therefore be 25th September, 23rd October and 27th November at 3, Pheasants Ridge. Details will be in the new Small Groups brochure. We would love to welcome new members!

Quiz Evening at St John the Baptist Church, Little Marlow Friday September 7th 7.30pm Teams of 4 people. Tickets £10 to include a meal. Contact Jeff Smith on 07775 957090"

Barn Dance in aid of Marlow Refugee Action and Mission Burundi, Saturday 15th September 6.30 -10pm at High Rews Farm, Marlow. Food and licensed bar. For tickets email missionburundi2019@gmail.com

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

Autumn Small Groups programme. Our new brochure of Small Groups for the autumn is out today. Do have a look and see what you would like to sign up for -there is a great selection to choose from. You can also see the groups and sign up on the website 4u-team.org/smallgroups Please note that groups include one for families who are interested in their children being admitted to communion and one for young people thinking about confirmation. Adults wanting to be baptised or confirmed should contact one of the clergy and we would probably suggest doing the Alpha course depending on what you've done before. The "Exploring Baptism and Communion short course would also be helpful.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MARLOW

St John the Baptist Church Little Marlow will be hosting the next quarterly prayer meeting on Saturday 8th September at 9 am. Coffee will be served after the meeting. Please join our Christian brothers and sisters as we pray together for the growth of God's kingdom in our churches and community.

The next men's breakfast meeting will be held at Harleyford Golf Club on Saturday 15th September at 8.30 am. Coffee and a bacon bap will be served at £5 per head. An inspirational talk will be given by Revd Ian Brown RAF, titled 'Why I am a Military Chaplain'.

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).

St Mary's Creche

As you may know we are currently repainting and refurbishing the small room on the side of St Mary's so that it can be used as a crèche during our services. This is an important and exciting development as we seek to encourage families with very young children to come to our Church. The cost of carpeting the furnishing the room is putting a little pressure on our budget and cash flow. Therefore we are asking if anyone.....

1. Has recently carpeted a room and has an off cut 3.25mx4m or larger they could give us?
2. Has any furniture that might be suitable for a crèche (small sofa, soft chairs etc) they could give/lend us?
3. Is able to give a financial gift towards the refurbishment? Then please let our Treasurer Lorraine (Lorraine@thejackmans.org) know or a church warden.

Thanks ever so much for your help with this. We plan to have the room up and running for Sunday September 16th. If you can help at all do let Graham or Sami know or as stated above, Lorraine, Kathy or Nigel."

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!*

From 16th September, our monthly pattern of services will be changing

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

DATE	TIME	PLACE	TYPE
Week 1	9.30 11am	St Mary's The Chapel	Holy Communion Worship with children's groups
Week 2	9.30 11am	The Chapel St Mary's	Morning Worship Worship Altogether
Week 3	9.30 11am	St Mary's The Chapel	Holy Communion Worship with children's groups
Week 4	9.30 11am	The Chapel St Mary's	Morning Worship <i>or</i> Holy Communion All Age Communion <i>or</i> Service Sunday
Week 5	Everyone together service		

September services are set out on the front page of this newsletter

7th October will be as week 1 on the table

14th October will be as week 2 on the table

and so on....

Readings next week: Exodus 19:1-9 Matthew 22:34-40; 28:16-20

***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 2nd September 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 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 for Dave as he continues 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 the people of Yemen, Syria and Columbia. **Pray** the truce in the violence and unrest in Kimberley will hold and the local government will address some of the issues.

Pray for the many young people who are preparing to return to school and college, for those excited at the prospect of moving to new schools those going up to university and higher education and those starting school for the first time. **Pray** especially for those whose results have not enabled them to follow their hoped for path, may they trust God to open another door and show a new direction. **Pray** for teachers and lecturers as they return refreshed for new challenges. **Pray** for Savannah, Sophia and Tobias who will be baptised today, for their families and supporters.

Pray for the volunteer teams as they prepare programmes to continue Church activities and clubs for our children in the coming autumn session while decision are made about replacing youth and children's leaders. Give all wisdom, and inspiration .

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, technicians and carers who use their God given skills to heal and to mend. **Give thanks** for those who are healing.