



Lantern

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

Welcome to our new service pattern!

As we get used to changes, we will try our best to keep you posted through this Newsletter and in other ways. Please let us know if there are ways we can improve our communications and be patient as things change in the next few weeks.

4th November 2018 – 4th Sunday before Advent

**09.30 Holy Communion at St. Mary's
11.00 Worship with children's groups in The Chapel**

Services in November

11 Nov	10.30	Remembrance Service at Burford School
18 Nov	09.30	Holy Communion at St. Mary's
	11.00	Worship with children's groups in The Chapel
25 Nov	09.30	Morning Worship in The Chapel
	11.00	All Age Communion at St. Mary's

NEWS AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

All Souls Service tonight at All Saints Marlow at 5.30pm. This service gives a helpful opportunity to remember loved ones we have lost. It is for all those who have been bereaved, whether recently or longer ago. Followed by tea and refreshments in the All Saints' Church.

Don't forget our **Remembrance service, 11th November at 10.30am at Burford School.** This will be the only service in the valley that morning.

Lantern Youth will be running a youth trip to Soul Survivor Watford (youth service) on **Saturday 24th November from 3.30-7pm** so put that date on your calendars now!

If you would like to sign up for the parish giving scheme, please talk to Lorraine Jackman or Graham Watts.

Count down to the Sleepout 23rd November in the churchyard of ASM.

Join the night of fellowship and fun with our intrepid band of sleepers and help Wycombe Homeless Connection while you sleep. Event from 7pm includes: soup kitchen, best shelter competition, short quiz, breakfast. From 12yrs (with accompanying adult). Register at <https://www.bit.ly/4USleep2018> or email Muriel muriel.reynolds@4u-team.org

CONCERT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AT ALL SAINTS MARLOW

The Concert this afternoon at 3pm is in aid of All Saints' Marlow Music Trust and is being given by the soprano Fran Stafford. Fran is a local girl and was a Choral Scholar at Royal Holloway University of London. She is recognised as one of our most promising musicians. Admission is free and the concert will last about an hour, with tea and cake to follow.

Sunday 25th November 3pm Wycombe Abbey School

Saturday 1st December 7.30pm Marlow Choral performing Mozart's Great Mass in C minor

Marlow Refugee Action – “World-Café” Event Monday 19th November, 7:30-9:30pm, Marlow Rowing Club After two years of collecting, campaigning, fund-raising and volunteering our understanding of the refugee crisis and what we can do to help has made significant progress. Come and hear more about our vision for the charity moving forward and how you can get involved and help refugees both in our area and in camps abroad. Your help and support so far has been amazing, please join us for the next step of our journey. There is no charge for the event, but drinks will be on sale courtesy of our hosts at Marlow Rowing Club. Please get in touch for more information and to let us know if you plan to come (it would be helpful for us to know numbers): marlowrefugeeaction@gmail.com

All Saints Bisham are looking for a Book Keeper/Treasurer. If you can help please contact Rod Stevens (rodstevens@live.co.uk)

Please come along and pray at 165 Marlow Bottom **tomorrow evening**, 8-9.30pm.

Readings for next week: Hebrews 9:24-end
Mark 1:14-20

***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***

LETTER FROM DAVE BULL

Back from Sabbatical

Last Sunday I returned to work after a 3 month sabbatical. Thank you for the warmth and love expressed in the many “welcome backs” I have received! In the coming weeks I will be sharing in more detail about these 3 months, but for now I wanted to share with you a taste of how I invested the time for anyone who is interested to know. The two most common questions I have been asked are:

Q: What is a sabbatical and why do you get one?

Sabbatical leave is a break of 3 months away from normal duties granted every 10 years to Church of England clergy. The goal is personal enrichment and professional development (it is not a 3 month holiday!). There are 3 elements: Renewal, Retreat and Rest.

Q: What did you do?

For renewal: visited inspiring churches (from villages to cathedrals with everything in between!), made space for deep reflection and discussions, especially on the areas of leadership and conflict resolution, attended a conference on Leadership and Social Innovation, reviewed and worked on my own personal development (including a training course and bishop’s review of my progress) and also completed some study on the question of how the church can communicate with the Instagram generation, which involved a wide range of reading, articles, online research, TED talks etc.

For retreat: I went on two retreats, one at the start of the sabbatical (with friends) and one at the end (on my own). In between I enjoyed several other times of extended prayer.

For rest: As a family, the highlight was a fantastic 6-week holiday to the Eastern USA. Once back in Marlow, having a break from the relentless run of evening meetings gave me precious restful evening time with family. Helen and I went away for two nights by ourselves, which was another highlight. I was also able to invest time in friendships and in spending time with our families. Finally, I did lots of sailing and was treated to several great days out by friends.

Thank you!!

Overall, the past 3 months has been one of the most restful, happy and rewarding times of my life. On behalf of myself, Helen, Thomas, Lauren and Josh I want to say a heartfelt “thank you” to you all for making it possible and for your extraordinary generosity and love to us.

Dave Bull

TOGETHER IN PRAYER AT ST MARY'S

Week beginning 4th November 2018

A Prayer for All Souls

You can shed tears that they are gone, or you can smile because they have lived. You can close your eyes and pray that they will come back, or you can open your eyes and see all that they have left.

Your heart can be empty because you can't see them, or you can be full of the love that you shared.

You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday, or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday. You can remember them and only that they are gone, or you can cherish their memory and let it live on. You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back, or you can do what they would want; smile, open your eyes, love and go on.

Pray for the All Souls Service this evening, for all who come that they may find comfort in their grief and strength to move on, with peace and thanksgiving

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 at this difficult time

Pray for those attending the Alpha courses as they explore faith and for those considering confirmation. May all feel encouraged and supported in their decisions.

Pray for the volunteer teams and for Matt our shared intern, 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 our schools, teachers and children, planning the many special activities over the next few weeks and during the coming season of Advent.

Pray for all those at home and abroad whose lives have been altered by violence, terrorist acts, severe weather and tragic accidents. **Pray** for our broken world, those continuing to flee from violence and poverty that seek a better future in foreign lands, pray they will find a welcome and a decent place to live with support to make informed decisions about their future and the best way forward with hope. **Pray** for the oppressed and suffering, the lonely lost and abandoned. **Pray** for those working to bring relief and genuine hope for all in need.

Pray for those negotiating for the best outcome regarding Brexit, for commonsense and generosity.

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.