



# 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 service!*

*With lots of things going on in Marlow Bottom 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.*

## **16th December 2018 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**09.30 Holy Communion at St. Mary's**

**11.00 Lantern at The Chapel**

### **Services in December**

<b>23 Dec</b>	<b>09.30 Holy Communion at The Chapel</b> <b>11.00 Lantern Community Action Sunday</b>
<b>24 Dec</b>	<b>15.30 Crib Service at St Mary's</b> <b>16.30 Crib Service at St Mary's</b>
<b>25 Dec</b>	<b>09.30 Holy Communion at St Mary's</b> <b>10.30 Informal Family Service at the Chapel</b>
<b>30 Dec</b>	<b>11.00 Combined Service – Communion at St Mary's</b>

# NEWS AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**followthestar** In our Christmas publicity this year we are using the C of E's campaign #followthestar. Go to [www.churchofengland.org/followthestar](http://www.churchofengland.org/followthestar) to sign up for daily email reflections over the Christmas period. If you use social media please look out for this campaign and like/follow and share with your contacts.

As traditional on a Service Sunday, on 23<sup>rd</sup> December we'll be having lunch afterwards, but this time it'll be a special Christmas Lunch Party for all our church family, from 12.45pm at Graham and Sami's house (165 Marlow Bottom). Please let us know if you can make it. We'd love to see you! *Graham and Sami.*

Many thanks to everyone who sponsored the Lantern Ladies (and the youth team: Matt, Jonny, Zeke and Keziah!) who slept out in aid of Wycombe Homeless. It was a humbling experience for sure, but we were blessed with relatively mild weather and very good company! We are not sure exactly of the total, but we think our part of the team raised in the region of £3,500 which is an amazing achievement. If you want to donate, it's not too late, here's the link: [uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/LanternLadies](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/LanternLadies)

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

If you would like to sing carols in a Choir this Christmas, one is being put together for **23rd December** Carol Service at **Marlow Methodist Church at 6.30pm.**

Jackie Duxbury is again forming a choir for the service and looking for singers. Anyone interested should either contact Jackie ([jackie.duxbury1@btinternet.com](mailto:jackie.duxbury1@btinternet.com)) directly or give their name (and voice part) to Howard Lewis or Rob Allinson.

Rehearsal details are as follows although please note Jackie appreciates people may not be able to attend all rehearsals:- 20<sup>th</sup> Dec at 8pm and Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec at 5.15pm

Readings for next week: **Hebrews 10: 5-10**  
**Luke 1: 39-55**

***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 IN MARLOW & MARLOW BOTTOM

Week beginning 23rd December 2018 3rd Sunday of Advent

**A Prayer for Advent:** Wilderness is the place of Moses, a place of no longer captive and not yet free, of letting go and learning new living. Wilderness is the place of Elijah, a place of silence and loneliness, of awaiting the voice of God and finding clarity. Wilderness is the place of John, a place of repenting, of taking the first steps on the path to peace. Wilderness is the place of Jesus, a place of preparation, of getting ready for the reckless life of faith. We thank you God for the wilderness, wilderness is our place. As we wait for the land of promise. Teach us the ways of new living, lead us to where we hear your word most clearly, renew us and clear out the wastelands of our new lives, prepare us for life in the awareness of Christ's coming, when the deserts will sing and the wilderness blossom as the rose.

**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 the volunteer teams and for Matt our shared intern, as they prepare services for, Nativities, Carol Services and more for Christmas and Advent. Give all wisdom, and inspiration.

**Pray** for our schools, teachers and children, planning the many special activities over this coming week and for Martin, Rhiddian and all our choirs. **Pray** for the children who will have no special moments or treats this Christmas, those from broken homes, living on the streets, alone and afraid.

**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 Mrs May and those negotiating for the best outcome regarding Brexit, for commonsense, generosity and common purpose to work for a future in unity and respect for the British people

**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, especially for those in our church family and community.

**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.