

All Saints Marlow

The Bridge

Autumn 2015 - Free Copy



The Superheroes of Lighthouse

All Saints
Marlow



Deny ... Die ... Disciplify - Dave Bull



Jesus called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.” Mark 8.34-38

On holiday this summer I gained a glimpse into a whole new world: the world of selfie-sticks. Everywhere I went people seemed to have these gadgets. They are short sticks on to which you clip a mobile phone so that you can take a photo of yourself. So many people had one that I began to wonder, “what’s wrong with me, am I the only person without one?” In one place a man arrived on a bike and – not possessing a selfie-stick – he tried to balance his mobile phone on a wall to

take a photo of himself using the timer. But he couldn’t get it to balance properly and then he got cross when people kept walking between him and the phone as the timer ticked down. Call me old school, but I remember when you used to smile at a stranger, entrust them with your camera and ask them to take a photo of you!

The selfie-stick trend is symbolic of much wider trends taking place in our society. We are infatuated with technology and addicted to possessing the latest ‘must-have’ gadget, until the next new thing comes out. We are also increasingly isolated, so that a stranger is increasingly regarded as an irritant (or even a threat) instead of a potential friend or helper. Most of all, our culture encourages us more than ever to place our ‘self’ centre stage. We are all celebrities who deserve to be the centre of attention. The world as we see it is a big and important world (never mind that we share the planet with 7 billion others who each see the world in their own unique way).

Twelve years ago, I went on holiday

over New Year and met a man who had invented a slogan to guide him through the coming year: “2003 – it’s all about me!” More and more people seem to be living by this advice. Perhaps our slogan for this year should be “2015 – it’s more about me than it’s ever been!”

It’s not just technology that encourages us to put self at the centre of our world. We are offered products, cars, clubs, clothes, holidays, houses, home furnishings and countless other things that we must have because they will make us feel better about our self.

Deep down we all recognise that at best these things offer only superficial change. They are skin deep and don’t really change our inner self. We long for something deep and satisfying to meet the needs of ourself. That’s why many of us come to church. But we must beware of shaping a skin deep church to match our skin deep culture. Martin Luther famously defined sin as “man turned in on himself”. In the light of this, consider the way we use the word ‘self’:-

Treat yourself. Indulge yourself. Pamper yourself. Be good to yourself. Protect yourself. Reinvent yourself. Rediscover yourself. Self-help. Build up your self-esteem. There is even a magazine called SELF, whose leading article this week is ‘Look Taller and Feel Thinner in 5 moves!’ What does that even mean?

Into all this confusion we desperately need to hear the words that Jesus speaks: “Deny yourself”. In our culture, this is a deep revelation, a total revolution. A friend who is struggling with making a life-changing decision that will profoundly shape her family’s future recently confided, “My problem is that I keep forgetting it’s not all about me”. That is my problem too.

Jesus issues an invitation to all those who want to follow him (note that he is talking not just to his disciples but to the whole crowd). Incidentally it is an invitation that we in the church now extend to others on his behalf. The invitation is not to come to a church service. It is not to listen to some good advice. It is not to take up a new hobby. It is an invitation to a new way of life. The earliest Christians were described as ‘followers of the Way’ – it was clear that their whole way of life was determined by their faith. Ours should be too.

Think for a moment about your main goal in life. Is it to travel the world before you die? To be happy? For your family to be happy? Simply to be comfortable (whatever that means)? If you’re honest with yourself, is it to avoid pain and difficult situations? Is it to achieve as much as you can (to ‘make a name for your self’)? None of these things is intrinsically bad, but the problem is that they are all ultimately about Self. Jesus invites us to Deny our Self.

Of course none of us wants to do this. So Jesus follows that invitation with another: “to take up your cross”. After 2,000 years of religious iconography, it is easy for us to lose sight of the fact that this was an invitation to die. Someone seen carrying their cross on the way to their crucifixion would have been in the last moments of their life. Perhaps ‘take the walk to the electric chair’ would be a contemporary translation. The invitation is to put our Self to death – that is to say an uncompromising ‘No’ to all our selfish desires. At first this feels like crazy advice if we want a good life. It feels counter-intuitive that to deny ourself will lead to a good life. But we discover it is true.

Can you remember how it felt to take your foot off the bottom of the swimming pool

for the first time? Or to climb on board your first flight on an aeroplane? Or to step onto a swaying rope bridge? You are not sure whether you will be safe if you trust your weight to something strange – but in fact it holds and you feel a sense of exhilaration. It is the same with following Jesus – as he goes on to explain: “For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.” It sounds crazy. But it works. What feels at first like death actually leads to life. As Jim Eliot (an American missionary) put it: “He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose”. It turns out that my life is not about what I want. It is about what God wants.

Deny ... Die. And then what?

The third part of Jesus' invitation is to “follow me”. Note that this invitation is in the present tense. He is not asking if you have decided in the past to follow him. It is a daily decision. A good marriage consists of the daily decision to follow the marriage vows and put the needs of the other before the needs of self. When one or both partners stop making this decision the relationship suffers. In the same way, the day we stop choosing to follow Jesus is the day we start to lose the life he alone can bring us. So don't put it off until tomorrow!

Neither does following mean simply going the same way. We say that we are ‘following’ another car in heavy traffic, but in fact we are simply both going the same way. If the car in front turns off down a side road that doesn't lead to my destination, I keep going straight. It turns out I'm not ‘following’ it at all. In the same way, lots of people who say they are following their leader (in politics, business, sport etc.) actually aren't following them. The test is

whether you continue to follow when the leader leads you somewhere you wouldn't choose to go.

Jesus invites us to follow him – to be his disciple – in every part of our life. I've invented a word for this: to “disciplify” our lives. This means to follow The Way in every part of our life. The problem many of us have is that we have some areas into which God is not allowed - work perhaps, or relationships, or ambitions, or money, or intellect, or freemasonry, or some other way we spend our time or money. This is a problem because God is too big to be fitted comfortably into one corner of our life. If he is to feature in our lives at all, He must be Lord of everything. If He's not Lord of all, He's not Lord at all!

Each of us therefore has to make an individual decision about whether we will “disciplify” our lives. No one else can do it for us. We must decide alone. You must decide how to respond to Jesus in this, your one and only life. But although the decision is individual, the journey it leads us on is one we make together. We learn how to follow Jesus and to support one another as his family, the church.

This coming autumn we have designed a series of resources to help us on the journey. On October 10th we have a day long seminar on ‘whole-life discipleship’. We have planned a series of Sunday sermons on the topic. And there is a DVD-based course for small groups to study and discuss. More details on all this are available on our website.

Or perhaps you're not sure if you are ready to make that journey. Perhaps you want to consider first the implications of who Jesus is and what his message says to you. If so, please come on our Alpha course running on Wednesday evenings

from 30th September.

Or perhaps you're thinking, 'this doesn't sound very British – it's all a bit excessive! I like my religion a bit less extreme'. The truth is there is no other form of Christianity. Jesus says whoever wants to follow me must deny themselves, take up their cross and follow me. And he also said that if we are ashamed of him and his words then one day - when we meet our maker - he will be ashamed of us.

Deny... Die... Disciplify. That is the invitation. Your life is not all about you. "Whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it." Amen.

This is a transcript of the sermon from the Team Service at Little Marlow on 30th August.

Changes to our Evening Service

This autumn, we are making some changes to our Sunday evening services in order to broaden their appeal. We will be introducing a new easy-to-follow format for Evensong, which we hope will make the service more accessible to newcomers. In addition, on every 3rd Sunday (starting 20th September), we will be introducing a new style of service. The aim of this new

service is to provide a peaceful space in which to draw near to God and respond to him. The service will feature a number of short talks or meditations, music from our choir, periods of silence and a chance to pray and to be prayed for at the end of the service. We hope it will be a place to meet with God and to hear him speak to us. Please come along and let us know what you think!

New format evening services in the next three months: 20th September, 11th October, 22nd November (NB: 1st November will be our All Souls' service)

Growing leaders

As our church grows, our leadership needs to grow with it and fortunately I believe we have a number of people whom God has gifted to be effective leaders. Over the coming months, I will be encouraging some members of our different congregations to try taking on different leadership responsibilities with a view to growing our overall leadership capacity. These people will be assisting Richard Powell in some of his churchwarden functions. Perhaps the most visible role they will be taking is in giving the notices at Sunday services. Please encourage them as they begin to serve our church family!

THE BRIDGE

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This edition, together with previous editions of 'The Bridge' are available as PDF files on the Church website: www.4u-team.org

What's been going on in our building?



You may have noticed various works taking place in and around the church in recent months! It is all part of our vision for the church to be a welcoming place, in the heart of the community and a place that people can visit and use for different functions. It is also about good stewardship by keeping the fabric in good order! So what has been happening and how has it been paid for?

Lights

The internal lights in the church have now all been changed to the modern LED lamps at a cost of £2,500. The new lights are more reliable than the old ones and will reduce the need to climb up and replace tubes as the need for this was happening around every ten days. A bonus is that the lights are much more efficient and when on use only 20% of the energy of the old ones. All this was possible due to a generous gift by a church member.

Entrance lobbies

The rendering in these areas was in poor condition and as part of wanting to be a welcoming church, it was important to maintain the fabric and also to present a building that is cared for. Repairs have been carried out and at the same time an

area of failing render in the Lady Chapel was repaired along with some external areas at roof level that were open to water penetration. Repainting was carried out by a team of volunteers using special paint and a safe way of accessing the work!

Lady Chapel

Church Council agreed to the carpeting of the chapel to make it more useable for prayer, art/spirituality and other activities. Before this was done the top stone plinth was removed opening the space up and making the emergency exit route safer! The carpet was paid for by a gift from a gentleman in memory of his father for whom our church was a 'special place'.

Chancel area

Those that use or clean in the chancel area will know that some of the tiles and steps were loose creating either an insecure sensation or risking sucking tiles up into the vacuum cleaner! Some work has been carried out to make these areas more secure and to reduce the risk of accident or further deterioration.

Church Railings

The external church railings were in need of repainting and a cheerful and energetic group of volunteers treated and repainted them over a ten day period. The work has been received very positively by many people so a big thank you to the painting team!

Other work

The old boiler chimney is split above roof level and is due to be removed before this winter. Some defective stonework on the south side of the building has been replaced. The large cedar tree that has shed some large limbs causing damage to

our neighbour's property is due to come down along with some other trees as part of a longer term plan to manage the church yard.

How has all of this been paid for?

Some specific gifts have been used as indicated above but we were also the beneficiaries of a significant bequest from the late Betty Nunn to whom we are extremely grateful. The balance of her gift has been allocated towards the cost of the new kitchenette and the associated alterations at the rear of the church. As a result of being able to carry out the items described above all the key recommendations in last year's five yearly inspection of the building by an independent architect have been completed.

None of this could have happened without considerable support from many people. So if you have helped in any way with carrying out these works – thank you!

Kitchenette proposal for the Church

Plans for the installation of a kitchenette are available for viewing in the church lobby. After months of consultation we now have the support in principle from the Diocesan Advisory Committee; English Heritage and the Victorian Society.

Tender documents are being prepared and a faculty is being obtained. It is hoped that tenders will be returned during September whilst the other formalities are being resolved. Subject to adequate funding being available the work could be carried out later this autumn or failing this, in the New Year.

Do look at the plans that are displayed in the Narthex (Entrance Lobby) area.

The picture below is of a similar type of installation at Saint Mary's (Princes Risborough).

Richard Powell



Music Matters - Martin Seymour



It's been a busy summer with the boys' choir joining Reading Minster boys to sing Choral Evensong at Christchurch Oxford, our big end of summer services and BBQ here and then some time to recuperate for the start of the next academic year.

We said a fond farewell to our head choristers of the girls' choir Issy and Phoebe and you will find a separate article from them on page 10. Needless to say they did very well in their A level results! Over the summer, one of our boy choristers, Sammy Cormack-Repath attended the residential RSCM course at Bath having won a scholarship from the organisation to attend. You'll find his report on this at the end of this article. It's amazing what youth outreach, the choir is.

Yet more exciting news. We are delighted to welcome Tom Brockington as our new organist. Tom has moved back to Gt Missenden having finished studying at Durham where he was an organ scholar at St Johns. Tom will be starting in the early part of September and do say hello



when you see him. Tom will be playing one of the two Sunday services most weeks.

Our tour to Budapest is in the latter stages of organisation. We are taking 37 trebles, 15 men and support staff who are flying out from Heathrow over the start of half-term for five days. We hope that we might be able to arrange a reciprocal visit from some of the school children we will meet over there, in the next couple of years.

The girls' choirs now have more even numbers in them as the new secondary school pupils move to the senior choir. So we have 19 in the junior girls' choir and 17 in the senior girls' choir. There are presently 17 boys. We may well have to

operate a waiting system in some areas but I want to avoid turning singers away when they can give so much to our community and be part of our family life. We are constantly looking for more boys and men, particularly middle-aged music readers with reasonable voices. If you know of any who could sing on a part time or full time basis please put them in touch. We continue the process of the boys moving into the back row as their voices change and over time this too will help to strengthen the altos, tenor and basses. You are our biggest marketing force so please keep spreading the word!

There are also places in the adult Occasional Singers group who typically sing once or twice a month normally in the mornings. There is no audition for this and it is a mixed ability group with some music readers and some not. A number of members have previously done the RSCM 'Voices for Life' scheme attaining the Bishop Chorister medals, so it's never too late!

Finally, following the trials of the different styles of evening service earlier in the year we will be running a pilot scheme over the next few months, where the third Sunday evening is a traditional style but contemplative service which isn't constrained by the Book of Common Prayer liturgy. We welcome and encourage all those who come to the morning services to try something a little different and have a reflective start to the week. The other two Sundays will continue to be Evensong but we will be making efforts to make it much more accessible as it is a beautiful service once you get to know it and many places still use it as the heartbeat of the building using the liturgy passed down over hundreds of years.

Now to start planning Christmas music!

My week in Bath **By Samson Cormack-Repath**

I ended up going on the seven day RSCM residential course in Bath when I went on the Oxford course at Easter – I got a scholarship to go. They gave us a small audition, by me singing one of the pieces we were doing.

On the course we stayed at Kingswood School. Each of us had one or two other roommates. We slept in fairly expansive dorms, all connected by a corridor. The building was basically made up of corridors and stairwells – you started to find your way around by day three! There were also codes for some doors.

On a typical day we got up at 7.30 and had breakfast at 8.10. Warm-up and house practices were at 8.45 and 9.30. We'd have lunch (which was always brilliant) and had a break within which we could go to town in groups of three and spend our pocket money (I bought sweets). Afterwards, we had some more rehearsals and a service in either the school chapel, St. Stephen's Church or the amazing Bath Abbey. Finally, we would have dinner, another rehearsal, then free time. It was 'lights off' at 9.15 pm.

I learnt a lot of new music during the week. My favourite pieces were probably the Philip Moore, All Wisdom Cometh From the Lord, and S.S. Wesley, Ascribe Unto the Lord (it was very long!).

I would recommend this course to others because it is fun and a great experience for musicians. Although there was a lot of rehearsing, we also got to go swimming in the school's pool. I made several new friends on the course. Even though at first I didn't want to go, I really enjoyed it and hope to go again!

Phoebe & Isabella Mansell



At the age of seven, amongst a cluster of other shy children, we were invited by Clem Virgo to join the Girls' Choir, after his visit to Holy Trinity School in pursuit of new recruits. Although timid and unsure, we were excited to start singing and learn about the wonderful world of music.

We became full choristers and attained the coveted white surpluses then worked through the 'Voice for Life' scheme, completing light and dark blue books and earning our first ribbons, just like the current juniors. As we grew in knowledge and experience, so did we gain confidence and, after a lot of hard work, soon advanced to Bishop's Chorister Awards: Bronze and Silver. Although our primary school friends had now left the choir, we relished making new friends of different ages and schools, as we continued to Sir William Borlase's Grammar School and became Head Choristers.

ASM Choir has always offered a multitude of fantastic opportunities, which we eagerly seized. Highlights include the Oxford RSCM Easter course; regular weddings; and singing in a wide range of venues, including Southwark Cathedral and several Oxford colleges. An unforgettable experience for us must be the 2013 choirs' tour to France, particularly singing Handel's Messiah in Paris and Marly-le-

Roi. This also gave us a chance to build friendships with members of the newly-formed Senior Girls' Choir, which is still growing – we can honestly say that we have made friends for life.

In October 2013, we were awarded the first ASM Music Trust Choral Scholarships, granting us singing lessons with Martin Seymour and Leonie Cormack-Cook, culminating in achieving Distinction in ABRSM Grade 8 Singing. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Leonie and the Trust for their immense generosity, as we certainly couldn't have accomplished all that we have without their support. We'd also like to thank Mr. Virgo and Mr. Seymour for their guidance over the past 11 years; whether with Music A-level, university applications or exams, we really appreciate everything you have done for us. We are proud of receiving Choral Scholarships for university and although we now go our separate ways, we will undoubtedly continue singing – Phoebe will study English at Oriel College, Oxford and Isabella will read English and Drama at Royal Holloway.

Now, we really look forward to returning whenever possible. The recent final Summer evensong and BBQ acted as an emotional but heartfelt farewell, as we will very much miss the ASM team and congregation, but we have no fear that the choirs will continue to grow in numbers and flourish in talent. At the age of 18, we can now confidently say that the choir has greatly benefitted us, both musically and personally. Our time has been thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding, and we feel extremely lucky to have been members of this tight-knit group as part of a wider Christian community.

Moving Forward - Anna Clarke

When the Titanic went down 69% of the crew and people on board went down with it. People were shocked. It was a devastating tragedy. A terrible loss. If I told you that 70% of young people today are no longer following the faith they were introduced to as a child, how would you react? Would you count it a tragedy? A terrible loss? The statistic itself does not surprise me but the reality of what that means - that seven children in every ten lose their faith as they get older - seriously disturbs me. How would you react if I took 10 kids on a trip and returned with only 3? There might be momentary rejoicing from tired parents who think they're relieved of the stresses that come with parenting for a little while longer, but after that the questions would begin to flow... where is Jonny? What happened? When is he coming back? What will happen next? In a similar vein, we too as the church of today, need to be asking those difficult questions in order to address this sad statistic and look at how we might reverse this trend.

As the newly appointed Children's Discipleship Leader you might be expecting me to launch into a list of solutions but I'm afraid I'm going to have to disappoint on that front. What I want to share here is my personal experience of God lighting the way and how I believe God will do the same for us here in Marlow as we look at moving forward.

There have been periods in my life where I've felt lost and when I haven't particularly understood the purpose of being in a specific place. But as time progressed and I made decisions, taking steps in one direction or another, it became clearer as to why things had had to happen as they did. I began to see my life and journey

with God as being like a journey through a forest. I'd shine my torch ahead and would see a short distant in front. It wasn't, however, until I actually made a step and moved forward a little that I could see any further. And so it is with God. When we trust Him enough to make that first step of faith He shows us the subsequent steps and bit by bit the jigsaw pieces of our lives begin to make sense and start to form the picture that is God's will for our lives.

I really believe that God has great plans for the children of Marlow but seeing those plans unfold will undoubtedly require steps of faith. So where do we go from here? Well right now I'm not asking for your money, I'm not asking for your help (not just yet anyway!) but I am asking for your support in prayer. If we get bogged down in statistics it can get a little depressing. But we have the most powerful weapon on our side - prayer. If anyone can turn a 30/70 statistic to a 70/30 (and beyond!) then it's our amazingly powerful and faithful God! When we trust Him with the small things He can do immeasurably more than we ever could imagine and dream of. Now I don't know about you but that fills me with an incredible hope and excitement for the future. So let's unite in prayer over the church of the future and see where our God will take us. Pray for guidance in decisions, pray for the volunteers who work tirelessly in serving children's teams and dedicating their time to this cause (they are the stars here) and last but not least, pray for our children - the future of the church.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” Philippians 4: 6

Churches Together in Marlow - Tony Threlfall



During Christian Aid Week, the house-to-house collection in the Marlow area totalled £7124, of which £2405 was raised by collectors from All Saints. A further £560 was raised by local participants in the sponsored walk at Bix, and £210 by the concert at Christ Church URC.

The Love Marlow Festival initiated by Churches Together was a great success. CTM joined with 18 businesses and agencies in the town to arrange a diverse programme of 26 activities. These varied from musical entertainments, craftwork and cycle races, to training for young mums and story-telling. The programme culminated in an open air service in Higginson Park. All churches were represented, but the children's choir that followed the service probably 'stole the show' with their rendering of an anthem specially written by Sheila Wilson entitled 'We Love Marlow'.

The service to welcome Revd Nick Thompson at Marlow Methodist Church on 2nd September was a joyous occasion. Nick is the new minister at Marlow, Marlow Bottom and Flackwell Heath, as well as being Superintendent of High Wycombe Methodist Circuit. In his previous ministerial appointment, he was also Chair of Churches Together in Wokingham.

At the Marlow Carnival on Saturday 19th

September, individual churches shared the same pitch. Two large tents were provided under the auspices of Marlow Methodist Church. They were located opposite the Carnival Stage and each church was responsible for its own stall or display.

The CTM Harvest Supper will take place at All Saints Church Hall on Friday 30th October at 7.30 pm. As in previous years, admission has to be restricted to 90 people with tickets at £5 purchased in advance. Help in the provision of food and in setting-up and clearing away will be very welcome. The annual Celebration including the AGM is scheduled for Tuesday 10th November at 8 pm.

Henry Olonga has been invited to speak to audiences at Sir William Borlases's School Hall on Thursday 26th November. Henry is a former international cricketer who played in 30 test matches for Zimbabwe. He shot to fame after he wore a black armband in the 2003 World Cup in protest against human rights violations by Robert Mugabe's government. After a warrant for his arrest on a charge of treason was issued, he went into hiding before escaping to Britain. The title of his talk is 'Traitors, Tyrants and Christian Fools'.

Henry is a charismatic evangelical speaker with a magnificent tenor voice, who intersperses his talk with a range of Christian songs and hymns. The intention is to arrange an afternoon meeting free to secondary school pupils, and an evening meeting with admission by ticket for adults. Marlow Sports Club has offered to advertise the event and promote ticket sales through their extensive membership.

Join Our Big Sleep Out - Muriel Reynolds



On 20th November, Wycombe Homeless Connection is holding its Big Sleepout in the grounds of All Saints Church High Wycombe - its biggest single generator of funds for the year. All Saints Marlow have decided to support the event by doing our own mini version in our churchyard on the same night.

Homelessness is a growing problem. Wycombe Homeless Connection has helped over 400 people in the last year; people who do not qualify for council assistance and have nowhere else to turn. Homeless individuals are often people like you and me who have fallen on hard times. They are, in the main, a hidden group; the usual picture of the unwashed down-and-out squatting in a doorway with a can of cheap lager is completely unrepresentative of the people I met while working at one of the night shelters during the last winter.

Homeless typically is the result of a relationship breakdown, redundancy or simply the end of a tenancy. The adage that you are only two pay cheques away from homelessness certainly seems to be true. If you are unfortunate enough to be under the age of 60 and have no children, then the council is unable to help - you are literally on your own. Unless you have the money for a rent deposit, homelessness swiftly follows.

WHC believes that every individual has

worth and deserves a fresh start, no matter what their situation. It costs in the region of £160,000 to run its advice, support and resettlement service and its January-March winter night shelter. Our sleepout in Marlow will be a sponsored event raising money to support this vital work.

So how can you help? There are three ways: You can join Dave and spend the night of 20th November under the stars in your own personalised cardboard box (more of this at a later date) or you can sponsor the hardy souls who are brave (or foolhardy) enough to do so. The third way is to be in the support group which will provide hot drinks in the evening and breakfast in the morning to all the intrepid 'rough sleepers'.

Sponsorship and application forms are available either from the parish office or by emailing MurielReynolds@MarlowAnglican.org or can be downloaded from the Church website <http://4u-team.org/churches/all-saints-marlow/>

I met some lovely people, men and women, at last year's night shelter and I know how grateful they were for the little we were able to do. Our vision encourages us to be visible and proactive within the community and to make a difference in the world. By supporting this event we will be doing both. Together we can make a small difference to a big and growing problem.

Calling All Heroes! - Pat Reading

The 11th Marlow Lighthouse run by Churches Together in Marlow, between August 3rd - 7th was a super success! The sun shone on our biggest numbers ever - over 460 children and 280 volunteers - as we filled the Holy Trinity school field with song and dance and prayer and praise around the theme of 'Jesus is My Super Hero'! Each day focused on a Bible superhero - Miriam, Elijah, Mary, Jesus and Paul, with a POW word each day: Protect, Believe, Trust, Save, Transform.



On Monday we looked at 'Incredible Children' focusing on Miriam, the leading lady of Exodus! She risks everything to PROTECT her brother and even engineers for him to be brought up by his Hebrew family for most of his young life. God made sure she was in the right place at the right time. Even though Miriam was a child, God gave her the strength and ability to protect. As we saw all week with the help of God, children are capable of incredible feats!

Tuesday was all about Elijah, a regular man who made mistakes, who was afraid sometimes, yet when it really mattered he trusted and BELIEVED in God. Elijah did amazing things with God's help and God did amazing things for Elijah.

Wednesday featured Mrs Incredible - Mary the mother of THE superhero! She is special not just because she is the mother of Jesus, but for enduring a lot of threats and peer pressure after being spoken to by the Angel Gabriel. Mary showed that TRUST is all it takes!

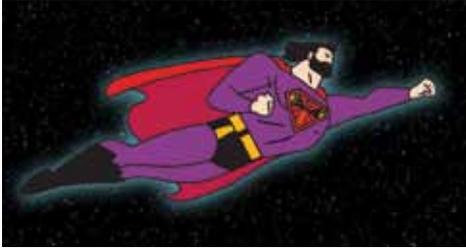


Thursday was time for the Ultimate superhero of the bible and all time and space! Jesus performed hundreds of superhuman deeds and his death on the cross was the ULTIMATE act of good defeating evil. He died to SAVE us all.

We ended the week showing that 'Bad Guys' don't necessarily stay that way and forgiveness is big business in the superhero realm for Jesus! Using the story of Paul and his Road to Damascus experience we showed Jesus will TRANSFORM your life! All the people were amazed at the mighty power of God Luke 9:43

The daily message was delivered on a scroll by a Flying Jesus - thanks to the genius of our technical team and by the amazing John Rumble who designed our very special aerial superhero - we saw Jesus zip wiring from one end of our huge Mainstage tent every morning. By Tuesday he also had a camera, filming hundreds of uplifted faces! And on Friday he scattered

confetti blessings! No shortage of creative thought at Lighthouse!



The themes were unpacked in the Discovery Zone by our wonderful Age Group Leaders – the teachers, in Craft where the usually incredible standard of Craft activities ended the week making superhero capes and masks and in I Zone where imagination and inventiveness was expanded and in Sport where all that excess energy was put to great use!

Sport had a new leader this year, thank you Stephen Harwood, for taking this on! Mainstage topped and tailed each day, with new songs and games, as well as the old favourites with lots of actions! Start singing Hillsong's 'Jesus is my Superhero' and any volunteer will automatically start lifting their arms and flying like Superman! Our house band were brilliant!

Sadly the very wonderful Sam Gordon who heads up Mainstage and I zone was unable to attend, due to back surgery but two life long Lighthouseers at the great ages of 19 and 18 stepped up and took on these two key areas. A massive thank you Deanna and Zoe – real life Superheroes!

New this year was a mini Lighthouse for our 'Smalls', the 4 year olds in the Creche, led by Eve Bunt, and a Craft tent for Trinity House – the 10 and 11 year olds, who created fantastic works of art, weaving on to chicken wire! And the first ever Lighthouse Flash Mob! Georgie Allen, a teacher at Holy Trinity, choreographed

a dance, taught the children and young helpers, our Lamplighters, the moves, and we ended Friday with the field filled with dancers! That was Georgies first LH and she has raised the bar very high!

We welcomed Chives back again as an extension to the volunteers most vital area of Lighthouse – the Tea Tent! With a bigger tent and outside seating we are reaching luxury standards, ably run by Libbi Fairfax, another new LH recruit, and her wonderful team. The Rock Café was back for a second year, offering great coffee and great prayer for parents after they had dropped their children off. This is a wonderful haven of peace in a high octane week!

HUGE thanks to all our super hero volunteers, too many to mention, for we could not run this amazing week without all of these fantastic people who give their time so willingly. Each and everyone of you, whatever job you do, are vital and valued and just AMAZING!



Lighthouse is a charity and relies 100% on donations to put on this week year after year. If you want to donate to make sure we can carry on, please visit the web site: <http://lighthouseamarlow.com> Thank you!

**Lighthouse 2016: 1st to 5th August!
The countdown has already started!**

Lighthouse 2015 - Photo Album

