

Team Talk

An ad-hoc newsletter of
The Marlow Area Team Ministry
serving the communities of
Great Marlow, Marlow Bottom,
Little Marlow, Bisham and Encounter.

October 2011

Greetings, again, Team

Welcome to our Team Ministry update for October. We start with the great news: We know who our new Team Rector will be. He will arrive in Jan/Feb 2012.

Hello from your new Team Rector, Dave Bull:

This week I have been honoured to be invited to become your new Team Rector, and this letter is a way of saying 'hello' in advance of my arrival. During the selection process I have very much enjoyed meeting some of you, and look forward to getting to know you all when we move to Marlow. I would like to thank everyone who welcomed us so warmly on Tuesday and Wednesday this week, and especially to Paul Hinckley for his great work in organising the selection process at the same time as covering a double interregnum. The 24 hours my wife and I spent among you this week confirmed our sense that God was indeed calling us to serve you.

I look forward to introducing you to my family - my wife Helen and my children Thomas (who is 7), Lauren (who is 5) and Josh (who is 2). We are very excited about coming and making our home among you.

To give you a little bit of background, I originally come from rural Worcestershire but since leaving school have lived mostly in Oxford and London. I started my working life working in business for Unilever, and have since worked for a Christian bank for the poor, a large London church and my current parish in Reigate, which is very similar to the Marlow Area Team. I love sport (especially sailing and mountain biking), reading and meeting new people.

Having learned a little about this Team over the past weeks I believe you are a group of people possessing huge potential, and am very excited about what God might have in store for us as we journey into the future together. Please pray for me and my family as we prepare to join you, just as we have started to pray for you. The date for our arrival next year is not yet set but will be announced in due course.

I look forward to being among you. With my love and prayers,

Dave.

Selection Day for our Team Rector – Thanks!

Many people worked hard together to make a great day for the candidates, many others have been praying regularly and on the day itself. As the day drew to an end, we were able to unanimously affirm that Dave was (in the *words of our profile*) “*the person of God's choosing, who will lead us...*”

We are delighted to have appointed the candidate whom we and the Bishop unanimously believe has the calling and the gifts and qualities to lead us as a Team of churches and ministers.

The Bishop led the panel with wisdom and sensitivity. Panel members remarked that the day was a fine example of working together as a team. There was a common purpose which everyone pursued with grace and prayerfulness. Thanks to all who worked behind the scenes to create the right atmosphere for the day.

Dave will bring great vitality and gentle wisdom to the task of leading our churches and we look forward to the start of his ministry amongst us.

Team Prayers

Please continue to pray for all who serve us during and beyond our vacancy (not forgetting that we have another appointment to make in due time). Please join us, too, in praying for Dave and his family as they prepare to join us, and for all the preparations that need to be in place for his family and in our churches.

All area welcome to our monthly Parish Prayers. This is a short gathering open to all church members from across our Team Ministry. The prayer gathering for November (19th) will be held at Little Marlow church at 9am for 30 min.

31st October Team Service – 9.30 Bisham.

Do join us for our shared Team service at Bisham at 9.30am on Sunday 31st October. Our Team service is an opportunity to worship together in one place on this 5th Sunday of the month. Our guest speaker is Scott Wilcox from Bible Society. This year is the 400th Anniversary of the publication of the Bible in a language that ordinary people can understand. The Bible Society Scott will be telling us something of the Bible Society's initiative “Making the Bible Heard”. All welcome to enjoy the hospitality offered by Bisham church members.

Confirmation Service

On 31st October, as well as our Team service at Bisham, we shall be hosting the Deanery Confirmation Service at All Saints Marlow, conducted by Bishop Alan.

We have 13 candidates from across the Deanery and invite you to support this key moment in their journeys of faith. We also mark the reception into the Church of England for David Hilsdon of All Saints Marlow.

All Souls-Tide Service – a Team service.

All Saints' Church, Marlow, on Sunday November 6th at 6.30pm.

We welcome those who have been bereaved, especially during the past year for an opportunity for remembrance and reflection. Those who attend are invited, if they wish, to present a lighted candle in memory of their loved one.

Ministers and members of the Bereavement Support Visitors group from the Marlow Team will be present and available to talk after the service. Refreshments served in the Church Hall after the service. All are welcome.

Team Website

Thanks to all who have put in the hours and imagination to recreate our Team Ministry website www.marlowanglican.org. Do keep up to date with the ongoing developments and regular news updates. As well as lots of pages inviting people to our individual churches, describing the life and work of each church, there's a growing section of our work together and our shared life across the team.

Living Faith: Alpha.

The Alpha course is one of the ingredients of our Team's life to put in place our commitment to our diocesan vision for all our churches to express a Living Faith full of vibrant and appealing disciples. This term's course has five guests, each at different stages of growing as a Christian disciple – from enquiring with little church background, to those who are using Alpha as an opportunity to be refreshed in their faith and understanding.

A—Anyone interested in finding out more about the Christian faith;

L—Learning and Laughter (learning about life, faith and God is fun!);

P—Pasta (eating together gives people the chance to know each other);

H—Helping one another (in the discussion time);

A—Ask anything. No question is regarded as too simple or too hostile.

To illustrate the “Ask Anything” point, we do discuss a range of issues – often deep and challenging. As we open up these discussions, the key value is that all questions are welcomed. From time to time, people who are new to the life of the church ask simple but deeply searching questions that others more deeply embedded in the system take for granted – and often wish they'd asked but dare not. A bit like the little lad who said “but the Emperor has no clothes”. Good thing he did!! In the same spirit, our Alpha guests have the opportunity to shed light on life as they see it, and often help us all learn a bit more in the process.

More to come

Thanks for reading Team Talk. Please also keep in touch with individual church activities through the weekly notice sheets and district magazines. And please don't forget our Team Website – www.marlowanglican.org.

Revd Paul Hinckley, Team Minister.

paulhinckley@marlowanglican.org 01628 298915

Some words about our Team Rector Selection Day

... from some of our church members involved in the day

It was a wonderful day, if the only result had been to see the way the team drew together and acted as a true team, then it would have been worth every minute. But as it is, with the result we achieved, wow!

A great day. We saw five good people, each of whom had many fine attributes. Just one felt right for us. When the chemistry is right, objections fall aside.

A sense of relief and joyful expectation. It was an amazing moment when we all fell quiet and agreed. Everyone went home happy and stayed happy.

The candidates felt they had a warm welcome and the well planned day went smoothly. Fascinating how five different presentations from the same Gospel reading can turn out so differently. A happy feeling of cooperation - maybe the more we get to know each other we more we like each other?! A renewed sense of purpose.

I felt privileged to be part of this new chapter for the Marlow Team; on reflection I felt a real sense of unity develop through the process and it was very exciting to see and feel God's plan for the Marlow Team unfolding; the decision making process at the end of the selection day was very much in God's hands, I could not have predicted how it would go, but once the idea was voiced that Dave would be a 'breath of fresh air' for the Marlow Team, it quickly took hold and one-by-one the whole panel became aligned; until at the end there was a tremendous buzz of excitement as we began to open our minds to the possibilities.

There is a general sense of relief and joyful expectation that the most suitable person has been offered this ministry and responsibility, and has accepted. We can now look forward to a new chapter in the life and ministry of our Team.



*Dave and
Helen with
their
children
Thomas,
Lauren and
Josh.*