



BISHAM TOGETHER

The Monthly Newsletter
from All Saints Bisham
February 2026

I wonder if, like me, you're finding it hard to believe that we are in February already?!

January seems to have flown by without me quite realising it. As the year rolls on and the evenings grow steadily lighter, we find ourselves approaching the season of Lent – traditionally a time to slow down and reflect, and often a time when we might try to “give something up”.

I must admit to having mixed success with this, so instead I try to think about what I might “do” during Lent...reaching out to people I've not been in touch with, or being generous with my time, and my patience!

Simple, intentional acts that help this season of Lent become less about what we give up, and more about how we live.

Carol

Interim Team Vicar



Church Life

Worship & Events:

- Every Sunday: 9.30am Holy Communion at All Saints Bisham
- First Sunday of every month: 8am Book of Common Prayer Service
– next service: 1st March 2026

Ash Wednesday Service: 18th February at 7.30pm, All Saints Bisham

This marks the start of Lent

Remembering a Member of Our Community

Derek Oliver's funeral will take place at All Saints Bisham on Friday 20th February at 11am.

Sundays at All Saints...

During the first part of February, we will be continuing our sermon series *Jesus Changes Everything*, using some well-known stories from John's Gospel as a starting point. We'll be looking at stories of healing and new beginnings, of unexpected generosity, and of searching questions about what really matters in life — stories that show how encounters with Jesus can be reassuring and challenging in equal measure, offering hope while also inviting change. You would be very welcome to join us as we explore these stories together, and to wonder what they might have to say to our own lives today.

From Sunday 22nd February, during Lent we will be exploring passages from the Book of Exodus and reflecting on what it means to listen for God's guidance and walk in obedience. Lent is a time to pause, reflect, and grow, and everyone is warmly invited to join in — whether you come regularly or just occasionally. Together we will consider how God calls and shapes us today, even through life's challenges, with patience and grace.

...And in other news this month:



On 18th January we were delighted to welcome baby Jakub French and his family for his baptism. It was a joyful occasion, full of smiles, prayers, and a wonderful sense of celebration as Jakub was welcomed into the life of the church. We pray for God's blessing on him and his family as they begin this new journey together.

Ready for Anything!

Sheila and I recently attended a First Aid course, where we discovered that bandages are quite difficult to wind back up again, resuscitation dummies are surprisingly resilient, and that staying calm is much easier in theory than in practice!

We are pleased to report that we both survived the day, learned a great deal, and are now officially better prepared to deal with mishaps large and small—though we sincerely hope to put these new skills into practice as rarely as possible!

PS – Sheila has NOT broken her arm! This was an exercise!



Working together to care for God's creation



Climate change is affecting communities across the world, with the greatest impact often felt by the poorest and most vulnerable. As part of its care for creation, the Church of England has set a target to reach net zero carbon by 2030.

Whatever our individual views, we want to think carefully and prayerfully about the future of All Saints Bisham — how we care for one another as a church community, and how we look after the building entrusted to us.

The Church Council is beginning work on exploring future heating options for the church. We know there will be different perspectives, and we want this to be a thoughtful and inclusive conversation.

If you would like to share your views or feel you might be able to help in any way, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Revd Carol Cooper, Mark Garrad, or Hamish Hunter.

Lent Bible Course!

This Lent we are running a joint Bible Study Course with St John the Baptist Church in Little Marlow. We're going to hold it at Cliveden Manor Care Home, so it will be friendly, relaxed and suitable for everyone.



The Church of England have put together the resource called: *Draw Near: Life-giving habits for Lent*, which will help us to reflect on simple habits that help us grow as disciples of Christ day by day. It will focus on six core aspects of the Christian Way: worship, prayer, exploring the Bible, communion, service, and sharing the good news.

Most importantly, it's fun, non-threatening, and a chance to meet and mix with people you might not know!

It's a great opportunity to reflect, connect, and grow in faith *together* – it promises to be a genuinely enriching and enjoyable experience for all who come!

Once I have more details about time and dates, I'll share them through Pew News, and we can also help with lifts and shared transport, so no one need miss out!

Project Shine at The Lantern, Marlow Bottom

A significant building project will be starting soon at The Lantern in Marlow Bottom, one of the churches in our Benefice. Known as *Project Shine*, the work will transform a much-loved but ageing building into a modern, flexible and accessible space for both the church and the wider community.



The renewed Lantern will provide a welcoming place where people of all ages can gather, offering space for community activities, support, and new opportunities for connection and growth. It builds on sixty years of service to Marlow Bottom, while looking ahead with hope to what the future may hold.

From time to time, we will share updates on Project Shine, and further details can be found on The Lantern's website: [The Lantern Church | 4U](#)

Please hold the project, and all those involved, in your prayers.

Bisham Church Friends

Past, Present and Future



Once again, we would like to offer grateful thanks to Sean, who stepped down from his role as Chair of the Friends in December last year. We are very pleased that he remains actively involved, particularly masterminding some of our bigger events!

Although there is not currently an individual in the Chair's role, there is a core team of Rosie, Helen, Jo and Sheila who have generously taken on smaller responsibilities, ensuring that the Friends continue to flourish. There is room in the happy team for volunteers to help in any way that suits them, every little helps and is appreciated. Just let us know!

There is much to look forward to in the coming months: Sheila's much-loved history coffee mornings will begin again on 10th February, starting right at the very beginning of Bisham's story, and on 26th March there's the BBO Big Band Concert in aid of Bisham Church — a wonderful opportunity to support the church while enjoying an evening of fantastic music.

Altogether, it promises to be a lively and exciting season for the Bisham Church Friends!

Bisham CofE Academy

Learning to Keep Going!

As the year continues, the school continues to thrive and has now grown to a very healthy 106 pupils!

I have been enjoying visiting the school to lead Collective Worship assemblies on the theme of *Perseverance* — thinking together about what it means to keep going when things are hard, to trust God, and not to give up too easily. Stories such as David and Goliath, the Persistent Widow, and Nehemiah rebuilding the walls have helped bring the theme to life, reminding us that perseverance often requires courage, patience, and faith.

It's been great to harness the enthusiasm of the Year 6 Collective Worship Team, who have been helping to act out the stories, much to everyone's delight, showing that these lessons are not just for the Bible, but for all of us as we face challenges big and small.



Community Notices

Upcoming Dates:

- **10th February** – History Coffee Morning 10-12 noon
- **18th February** – Ash Wednesday Service at Bisham, 7.30pm
- **26th March** - BBO Big Band at the Rugby Club

Saturday 28 February 10.00am till 4.30pm at Bourne End Community Centre

"A walk through the Old Testament".

AN INSPIRING, INTERACTIVE DAY THAT REVEALS THE BIG PICTURE OF GOD'S STORY
Clear, engaging and memorable — for anyone wanting to understand how the Old Testament fits together and why it matters today.

For tickets and more info:

<https://marlowanglican.churchsuite.com/events/pk19sahu>

Contact us:

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Community Gallery

A few moments from the life of our church and community this month.....

