

West Downland Benefice

Brightwalton with Catmore, Chaddleworth, Fawley,
Great Shefford with Shefford Woodlands, Leckhampstead
and Welford with Wickham

TODAY

18th March 2018 – Lent 5

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at Fawley
10.00am Café Church at Great Shefford
10.00am Holy Communion at Chaddleworth
11.00am Matins at Welford

WELCOME

We're getting ready for our first Easter weekend in our new home, but we're not only planning services or buying chocolate eggs, we're also chitting potatoes. However, despite the fact that we've already got a little colony of sprouting spuds on the window sill, I couldn't help but be distracted last week when I happened to be in Hungerford on market day. So I spent a very happy ten minutes wondering at the huge variety of seed potatoes set out on one of the stalls. There were all sorts of colours and sizes, planting seasons, harvesting times and culinary uses, but every one had the potential to produce a crop that will far outweigh its starting size.

I was reminded of those seed potatoes when I read this morning's Gospel reading and thought about what it means for me and for you as we continue to journey through Lent. Each one of us is unique. We have had different life experiences and experience different challenges, but each one of us has inbuilt potential which God develops and nurtures in us when we are willing to plant ourselves in serving him. Of course, what that life of service will be varies from one person to another too, but perhaps these last days of Lent are the ideal time to pray and ask for wisdom and direction to 'sprout' in us so that when Easter weekend is here we're ready to grow into the eternal life that the resurrection of Jesus promises us. *Miri*

PLEASE PRAY

Please pray for those who are sick or are recovering from illness, among them, Verina Black, Michael Smallwood, Jean Hickson, Laura Cuninghame, Ryan Keenan, Barbara Tayler and Stuart Futcher.

Please pray for those who have recently died and their families, among the John Croysdill who died last week and whose funeral will be held at 1.30pm on 27th March at West Berkshire Crematorium.

In the Deanery Prayer Cycle, we pray for the parishioners of Walbury Beacon and their clergy Mark Wilson, Matthew Cookson, Sue Webster and Lay Reader Jenny Veasey.

NOTICES

Miri on Radio Berkshire. Miri will be the 'faith guest' on the Paul Coia show on BBC Radio Berkshire on Sunday 18th at approximately 8.40am.

Loose Ends: Please continue to remember the homeless in Newbury during this cold weather.

NOTICES

Easter Services in the Benefice will be held:

Maudy Thursday – 29th March

7.30pm Holy Communion with Foot-washing
at Leckhampstead

Good Friday – 30th March

9.30am Good Friday Liturgy at Wickham
10.00am Children's Activity Morning at
Great Shefford School

2.00pm Good Friday Liturgy at Brightwalton

2.00pm Good Friday Liturgy at Great Shefford

Easter Sunday – 1st April

8.00am Prayer Book Holy Communion at
Chaddleworth

9.30pm Family Holy Communion at Great
Shefford

10.00am Family Holy Communion at Fawley

11.00am Family Holy Communion at **Welford**

Please note that this service is at Welford and **not** Wickham as stated in the Easter flyers given out in church. Amended flyers will be put in all churches for you to use as invitations for your family, friends and neighbours.

Duck Derby at East Shefford Farm by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Clive Povey will be held on Easter Saturday at 3.00pm. Teas after in Great Shefford Village Hall. Tickets at £2 from The Swan pub, the Garage, by contacting 01488 648213 or on the day at the event.

Parish APCM's will be at Leckhampstead Village Hall:

Tuesday 17th April

6.30pm Chaddleworth

7.20pm Fawley

8.10pm Brightwalton

Thursday 19th April

6.30pm Great Shefford

7.20pm Welford with Wickham

8.10pm Leckhampstead

All parishioners are invited to attend their parish APCM.

NEXT WEEK

25th March 2018 – Palm Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at Leckhampstead

9.30am Holy Communion at Shefford Woodlands

10.00am Holy Communion at Brightwalton

INFORMATION

Rector

The Reverend Miriam Keen

The Rectory, Church Street, Great Shefford, RG17 7DU

Tel: 01488 649927 or 07954 117 093

email: miri.westdownland@gmail.com

Associate Priest

The Reverend Mary Harwood,

The Rectory, Main Street, Chaddleworth, RG20 7EW

Tel: 01488 638566, email: maryharwood695@btinternet.com

Pew Sheet

To receive your Pew Sheet each week by e-mail, to have someone added to the prayer list, or to place an entry in the Pew Sheet, please contact Lindsay Hardy:

email: lindsay@theco.co.uk

COLLECTS & READINGS

BCP Readings

Book of Common Prayer at 8.00 am:
Hebrews 9. 11-15; John 8. 46-end.

Collect

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Short Collect

Gracious Father; you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Old Testament Reading Jeremiah 31. 31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

New Testament Reading Hebrews 5.5-10

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you'; as he says also in another place, 'You are a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchizedek.'

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Gospel Reading John 12. 20-33

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them,

'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Post Communion Collect

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and give up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen**

Mission Prayer

God of new beginnings, we pray that you will transform your church as you renew us by your love. Give us vision for the journey that we may travel light and live increasingly by faith. Inspire, enliven and empower us, so that along the Way we may be sustained by the life of Christ in ourselves, in one another and in the world. **Amen**

Prayer for the Homeless

God of compassion, your love for humanity was revealed in Jesus, whose earthly life began in the poverty of a stable and ended in the pain and isolation of the cross: we hold before you those who are homeless and cold especially in this bitter weather. Draw near and comfort them in spirit and bless those who work to provide them with shelter, food and friendship. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Next Week's Readings

Book of Common Prayer at 8.00 am:
Philippians 2. 5-11; Matthew 21. 1-13.

Common Worship Readings:

Palm Gospel: John 12. 12-16;

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 50. 4-9a;

Passion Gospel: Mark 15. 1-47.