

NOTICES

Lent Course. We cancelled last week's session because of the freezing weather. Miri emailed some additional materials designed as a follow up to our first evening together during which we had reflected on how contemplative we currently are, and how we might develop this aspect of our church life. We will resume the Bishop of Oxford's course this week by considering how we may sustain compassion rather than suffering 'compassion-fatigue' in the hurly-burly of modern life. Don't worry if you have missed the starting session, just come and join in at the next meeting:

Thursday 8th March Compassionate
7.30pm at Leckhampstead Village Hall

Thursday 15th March Courageous
7.30pm at Leckhampstead Village Hall

Lent Lunch will be held in Great Shefford Village Hall at 12.30pm on Friday March 16th.

Fawley PCC will next meet at 7.00pm on 5th March at Home Farm.

Leckhampstead PCC will next meet 7.30pm on 7th March at Bushey Leaze

Loose Ends: Please continue to remember the homeless in Newbury during the winter period. Mary will deliver goods and clothes left at the back of your church as usual. If you want to learn more about the wonderful work they do please visit their website: www.looseendsnewbury.org

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

12th March 2018 – Mothering Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at Brightwalton

9.30am Mothering Sunday Communion at
Great Shefford

10.00am Mothering Sunday Communion at
Leckhampstead

11.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at Wickham

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

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@thevo.co.uk

COLLECTS & READINGS

West Downland Benefice

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

TODAY

4th March 2018 – 3rd of Lent

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at Chaddleworth
10.00am Together@Ten at Great Shefford
10.00am Holy Communion at Fawley
11.00am All Age Communion at Wickham

WELCOME

At its best the snow we've had this week have shown off the exquisite intricacy of creation. The patterns of twigs against the sky, icy veins on a leaf and silvered threads in a spider's web all remind us that these delicate structures have surprising strength. And although experiments have disproved the claim that a thread of spiders' silk is as strong as a steel wire, they have shown that weight-for-weight the spider silk is stronger than steel. This challenges our human perception that the materials we can see, or hold, or form are the best that we have. In the same vain there's a tendency for us to feel that our own wisdom and strength are the best that we can bring to bear on the situations we face in our daily lives. However, in this morning's reading from Paul's letter to the Christians in Corinth we are challenged to take seriously the unseen strength and mysterious purposes of God's love at work in the world.

For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

1 Corinthians 1: 25

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 for their family and friends, among them Elizabeth Bunn, whose funeral took place at the West Berkshire Crematorium this week. Please also pray for Mary and her family as they come to terms with the death of her elder brother James.

In the Deanery Prayer Cycle, we pray for the parishioners of the West Downland Benefice and our clergy Miri Keen, Mary Harwood and John Avery. Pray that this new phase in the life of our churches will be a time of growth and blessing for our communities.

NOTICES

Thank you from Miri: Many of you gave time and talent to make my Installation Service a very special occasion with flowers, bells and music, refreshments and of course a cake. All these things spoke to me of God's faithfulness and have encouraged me as I begin my ministry here with you. Thank you

BCP Readings

Book of Common Prayer at 8.00 am:
Ephesians 5. 1-14; Luke 11. 14-28.

Collect

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Old Testament Reading Exodus 20. 1-17

Then God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

New Testament 1 Corinthians 1. 18-25

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the

power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.' Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Gospel Reading John 2. 13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Post Communion Collect

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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**

Next Week's Readings

Book of Common Prayer at 8.00 am:
Galatians 4. 21-end; John 6. 1-14.

Common Worship Readings:
Exodus 2. 1-10;

COLLECTS & READINGS

Psalms 34. 11-20;

2 Corinthians 1. 3-7; John 19. 25b-27.