

West Downland Benefice

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

TODAY

9th December 2018 – Second Sunday of Advent.

- 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at Brightwalton.
- 9.30pm Holy Communion at Great Shefford.
- 10.00am Nativity Play Service at Leckhampstead.
- 11.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at Wickham.
- 4.00pm Village Carols and Readings, Brightwalton.

WELCOME

Last Sunday I was in Auckland, New Zealand. It was a lovely sunny morning and the crowds were gathering for the annual Santa Parade through the city centre. Families arrived with deckchairs and picnics ready to set up camp along the route, and the Salvation Army, in shorts and t-shirts, played Christmassy music to help the festive mood. It was for me a heady mix – of the very familiar and the utterly new, and for that reason it was a profound beginning to the Advent Season.

Over the coming weeks we shall be revisiting the precious traditions that remind us of loved ones no longer with us and that bring us close to family and friends. We'll cherish the familiar music, readings, food and films that 'make Christmas Christmas'. But during Advent we also look forward to something utterly new: the coming of Jesus. Each one of us will respond to him in a different way but as we enjoy our traditions let's look for new glimpses of God's kingdom. Miri

NEXT WEEK

Wednesday 12th December

- 5.00pm Evening Prayer at the Fawley Haven
Isa. 31; Matt. 15. 1-20.

16th December 2018 – Third Sunday of Advent.

- 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at Fawley.
- 10.00pm Holy Communion at Chaddleworth.
- 11.00am Carol Service at Welford.
- 6.00pm Mary's Retirement Service at Brightwalton.

INFORMATION

Rector

The Reverend Miriam Keen
The Rectory, Church Street, Great Shefford, RG17 7DU
Tel: 01488 649927 or 07954 117 093
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Associate Priest

The Reverend Mary Harwood
The Rectory, Main Street, Chaddleworth, RG20 7EW
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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 Mike Hedges-Jackson
email: mikehj.westdownland@gmail.com

NOTICES

Mary's Retirement Service: 16th December 6pm at Brightwalton Church with refreshments afterwards in Brightwalton Village Hall. This promises to be a very special occasion as it is a chance to celebrate Mary's ministry and to wish her every happiness in her retirement. However it will not be Mary's last service with us as she has been granted Permission to Officiate and will be with us for Christmas!

Curate in the West Downland Benefice - we are delighted to announce that with Bishop Andrew's blessing Julie Howell will be joining us as our Curate in Training at the end of June 2019. Please pray for Julie as she continues her studies and prepares for ordination.

United Benefice Services during the Christmas Period – Each village church has its own character and will be hosting Advent and Christmas services. All the details are available on the church Christmas card which is being distributed to every home in the Benefice. In addition, in order to enable us to meet and celebrate this very special festival with friends from across the Benefice, there are the following United Benefice Services:

United Benefice Carol Service with Festival Choir - Sunday 23rd December, 6pm at Leckhampstead Church

Crib Service for families with young children - Christmas Eve, 3pm Wickham

'Yesterday, Today and Forever' a United Benefice Service as the year ends – 30th December, 10am Great Shefford

Our Offerings for Loose Ends at Christmas – Thank you to everyone who has supported our Advent appeal for items for the Christmas goodie-bags that Loose Ends provide for all their clients during the run up to Christmas. It has been wonderful to witness the generosity and grace of members of our communities. Next Sunday (16th December) is the last opportunity to donate to the seasonal appeal. However if you would like to continue to support Loose Ends there are collection boxes at the back of each church and your gifts of groceries and simple toiletries will be put to good use.

Goodie bag donations may include: warm socks, hats and gloves, travel games, foil blankets, torches, flasks and water bottles, hand warmers, toiletries, Chocolates or sweets. Please place your donations in the collection bag before the service so that they can be brought forward with the other offerings. We will then pray over them and ask that they may be a reminder of God's love to each person who receives them.

COLLECTS & READINGS

BCP Readings

Book of Common Prayer at 8.00 am:

Rom. 15: 4-13; Luke 21: 25-33.

Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

Amen

Old Testament Reading

Malachi 3.1-4

Thus says the Lord God:

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

New Testament Reading

1 Phil. 1. 3-11

My brothers and sisters, I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness

that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Gospel Reading

Luke 3. 1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."'

PLEASE PRAY

Please pray for those who are sick or are recovering from illness, among them, Michael Smallwood, Jean Hickson, Laura Cuninghame, Ryan Keenan, Stuart Fatcher.

Please pray for Jacob David Bruce who was baptised last week at Shefford Woodlands, and Juno Julia Cecilia and Athena Astrid Naomi Searight who will be baptised next week at Chaddleworth.

Please pray for the family of Tony Clark whose funeral will be on 12th December at West Berks Crematorium at 12.45pm, and for the family of Alan Dawkins who passed away this week.

In the Deanery Prayer Cycle, we pray for the Hermitage Benefice clergy: Wayne Lautenbach, Meg Kirby, Clive Jones, Simon Thorne, Wendy Willoughby-Paul, Cathy Hawkins, Margaret Fisher.

Post Communion Collect

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith: through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Next Week's Readings

Book of Common Prayer at 8.00 am:

1 Cor.4. 1-5; Matt.11. 2-10.

Common Worship Readings:

Zeph.3. 14-end; Phil.4. 4-7; Luke 3. 7-18.