

West Downland Benefice

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

TODAY

11th 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

WELCOME

A very warm welcome to everyone celebrating Mothering Sunday by joining us for one of our special services. We hope that you will feel relaxed and at home and that you will experience the peace and comfort of God's presence here. After all Mothering Sunday started out as a 'home coming', a holy day for people who lived and worked away from home to visit their parents and enjoy some rest and relaxation with them.

Old or young, male or female, parents or not, all of us are involved in mothering, that is in caring for our families, friends and neighbours, supporting them, advising them and holding them in our thoughts as well as our arms. Whether caring seems a joy or a burden for us today, and especially if it seems a mixture of the two, God invites us to come home to him, to rest for a while, to gather our thoughts and to be refreshed and renewed.

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, Stuart Fatcher and Peter Amesbury.

In the Deanery Prayer Cycle, we pray for the parishioners of the Hermitage Team Ministry and their clergy Luci Morriss, Meg Kirby, LLM Wendy Willoughby-Paul, Cathy Hawkins and Margaret Fisher.

NOTICES

Bellringing in the Benefice:

A group from Sussex will ring at Brightwalton on Tuesday 13th March from 5.40pm for half an hour.

The bells at Great Shefford will also be run on 13th March from 6.20pm for approximately half an hour.

Lent Course. The last session of this course will be held at Leckhampstead Village Hall on Thursday 15th March at 7.30pm.

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

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 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

Festival of Prayer 2018 will be held at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, OX44 9EX on Saturday 7 July between 10.00am and 4.35pm. Details of the days workshops, speakers and booking form (£30 per person) can be found at: www.brfoonline.org.uk/festival-of-prayer

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

NEXT WEEK

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

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
Tel: 01488 638566,
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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 Lindsay Hardy:
email: lindsay@thevo.co.uk

COLLECTS & READINGS

BCP Readings

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

Collect

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; 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

God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful: watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Old Testament Reading Exodus 2. 1-10

A man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

New Testament Reading 2 Corinthians 1. 3-7

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if

we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering. Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

Gospel Reading John 19. 25b-27

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Post Communion Collect

Loving God, as a mother feeds her children at the breast you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life: help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in grace within the household of faith; 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**

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:
Hebrews 9. 11-15; John 8. 46-end.

Common Worship Readings: Jeremiah 31. 31-34;
Hebrews 5.5-10; John 12. 20-33.