

## West Downland Benefice

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

### TODAY

13<sup>th</sup> May 2018 – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
Christian Aid Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at Brightwalton  
9.30am Holy Communion at Great Shefford  
10.00am Holy Communion at Leckhampstead  
11.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at Wickham

### WELCOME

In today's gospel reading we 'eaves drop' on Jesus' prayer for his friends. I'm particularly inspired by the phrase "As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world". It's a reminder to us that, as we are Jesus' modern-day friends, we are also sent into the world in the same way that Jesus was sent by God to bring healing, restoration and reconciliation. We may not feel that we have much power or influence on the world around us, especially when we recall the violence and need we see in news reports, but at this point in the church calendar we make a special effort to keep the Easter message of 'hope despite loss' at the forefront of our minds. When we think of our own lives, and the impact of our actions, in the context of Jesus' resurrection a transformation takes place and we understand that Jesus doesn't send us to change the world under our own steam. Instead he sends us out protected by the Father and empowered by the Holy Spirit so that our mission is equipped with the power that raised Jesus from death to life. *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 Fletcher.

In the Deanery Prayer Cycle, we pray for the following clergy within our Deanery: Caroline Robinson, Raymond Obin, Olivia Graham, Stephen Pullin, Catharine Morris, Nicolas Cheeseman, Tina Molyneux, Chris Stott, Alex Battley, Meg Kirby, Ben Whittaker, Bruce Laurie, Philip Read, Mark Bennet and Terry Winrow. Please also pray for retired clergy among them Christine Allsopp, Rita Ball, George Carey, John coombs, Dee Dawes, Trevor Dorey, Dick Douglas, Graham Foulis-Brown, Michael Harley, Clive Jones, Pam McKellen, Trevor Maines, Piers Nash-Williams, Martin Partridge, Nigel Sands, John Townend, Patrick Whitworth, Pat Willis and David Winter.

### CHRISTIAN AID PRAYER

God of the impossible, we pray for justice, peace and reconciliation. And when the challenges seem too many, remind us of your resurrection power, and the miracles of your love that happen whenever injustice is dismantled and rebuilt with peace. Help us to hope that the impossible can happen and live as if it might do so today. **Amen.**

## NOTICES

**Mary on Leave.** We all know how hard Mary worked to care for all the parishes during the Interregnum and to welcome Miri into her new role. During May she will be enjoying some much-deserved leave so if there are parish matters that you would normally take to Mary please contact Miri in the first instance until 1st June

**United Benefice Christian Aid Collection.** Envelopes will be collected at all services on 13<sup>th</sup> May and our combined gift will be sent to support the work of Christian Aid. Alternatively, you can donate online by using the e-envelope available on the Christian Aid website.

**Safeguarding Briefing.** Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May Brightwalton Church 7.30pm. This will provide important information about safeguarding in the parishes. Those who are required to undertake training have been personally invited but everyone is welcome.

**Fawley Bridge Lunch** will be held at Jude Cottage on 29<sup>th</sup> May commencing with coffee at 9.30am. A suggested donation of £20 per person for the Bridge (please bring your own table and cards) and £12 for the lunch would be most welcome. Tickets from Carolyn von Stumm (01488 638 194) or Gillie Rowland Clark (07803 253 348).

**Evening Prayer on Wednesdays.** A simple service is said in the churches of the Benefice on rotation. The next services will be held:

23<sup>rd</sup> May – Great Shefford at 5.00pm

30<sup>th</sup> May – Leckhampstead at 5.00pm

The kettle will be on if you would like a cup of tea before the service begins!

**Loose Ends.** Please continue to remember the homeless in Newbury. Contributions left at the back of your church will be delivered to them by Miri.

### NEXT WEEK

20<sup>th</sup> May 2018 – Pentecost  
Whit Sunday

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  
6.00pm Songs of Praise at Catmore

### 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@theo.co.uk

## COLLECTS & READINGS

### BCP Readings

*Book of Common Prayer at 8.00 am:*

1 Peter 4. 7-11; John 15. 26-16. 4a.

### Collect

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

### Short Collect

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

### First New Testament Reading Acts 1. 15-17, 21-26

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and said, 'Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus— for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.' So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.' So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.' And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

### Second New Testament Reading 1 John 5. 9-13

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

### Gospel Reading John 17. 6-19

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed: 'Father, I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

### Post Communion Collect

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; 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:*

Acts 2. 1-11; John 14. 15-31a.

*Common Worship Readings:* Ezekiel 37. 1-14;

Acts 2. 1-21; John 15. 26-27, 16. 4b-15.