

## West Downland Benefice

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

### TODAY

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2018 – Mary Magdalen

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at Leckhampstead  
9.30am Holy Communion at Shefford Woodlands  
10.00am Holy Communion at Brightwalton

### WELCOME

This Sunday we celebrate Mary Magdalene, a woman who was healed by Jesus and then followed him throughout his ministry, to stay with him as he hung on the cross, the first person to discover the empty tomb and of course the person who had the privilege of the first appearance of the risen Lord. Jesus then sent her to take the good news of the resurrection to the rest of the disciples with the words 'I have seen the Lord.' This is the essence of Christianity. This woman, who was very conscious of her own sin and the fact that Jesus died on the cross for her, suddenly find herself as the person who is asked to spread the Good News. I doubt that Mary had any idea that this was going to happen to her. She followed Jesus because he had healed her in mind, body and spirit. She felt the need to be with him and to learn from him, but did not in her wildest dreams image that he would be expecting her to be spreading the Good News.

There is a real message for us here. The most unsuspecting people are called to bring the message of the Kingdom to others – not by preaching at street corners of haranguing people whenever we see them – but by showing the love of Jesus to all with whom we come into contact. This week we had a meeting to share the details of all the reordering and repair projects in the churches in the Benefice. Everyone spoke of the need to make our churches places where the community could really feel ownership and where we could provide a loving ministry to all those around us – not just those who come to church on Sunday. We all have a part to play in this, whether it is in contributing ideas, helping to raise funds or regularly praying for the project and for those to whom we can reach out in mission.

*Mary*

### PLEASE PRAY

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

Please pray for those who have recently died, among them Verena Black whose Memorial Service took place last week. Please also pray for all who have lost loved ones recently.

Please pray for those about to be married, among them William Birtles and Laura Griffith-Jones who were married at Brightwalton on Saturday.

In the Deanery Prayer Cycle, we pray for the parishes of South Newbury and their clergy Becky Bevan, Debbie Davison and Terry Winrow.

## NOTICES

**Evening Prayer on Wednesdays** will be held at 5.00pm:

1<sup>st</sup> August – Leckhampstead

8<sup>th</sup> August - Brightwalton

**Reorganisation Meeting – Briefing Paper.** If you would like to receive a copy of Simon Weeden's notes please contact Lindsay. Any thoughts, questions or comments are welcome but please send them to Miri in writing so that we can make sure nothing is forgotten. Thank you.

**Challenging the Church on fossil fuel investments.** The National Investing Bodies (NIBs) of the Church of England are engaged with companies involved in fossil-fuel extraction, to persuade them to meet the carbon reduction targets agreed in the 2015 Paris Climate Summit. Their strategy was discussed at the recent General Synod and Oxford Diocese introduced an amendment to the motion which would have ensured that if, by 2020, these extraction companies do not have a clear business plan for reaching the targets the NIBs would disinvest. The amendment fell, but it was agreed that this should be the NIBs policy, with the date moved back to 2023.

**Loose Ends.** Please continue to remember the homeless in Newbury. Mary will deliver items left at the back of each church to Loose Ends on your behalf.

**Westminster Abbey Passes.** Please contact Miri if you would like to use one of the West Downland Benefice free passes on your next visit to London.

**Shoemakers Christian Bookshop** now has Coeliac Society Accreditation for its gluten free cafe as well as providing books, cards and craft items. Visit [www.christophershoeemaker.org.uk](http://www.christophershoeemaker.org.uk) if you would like more information or to sign up for their newsletter.

**Praying for a Curate for 2019** With the support of Bishop Andrew and the Deanery Pastoral Committee our application to become a training Benefice has been approved. Please pray that the person of God's choosing will hear His call to work in our parishes.

### NEXT WEEK

29<sup>th</sup> July 2018 – 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity

10.00am Ice Cream Sunday 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](mailto:miri.westdownland@gmail.com)

#### Associate Priest

The Reverend Mary Harwood,

The Rectory, Main Street, Chaddleworth, RG20 7EW

Tel: 01488 638566, email: [maryharwood695@btinternet.com](mailto: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@thevo.co.uk](mailto:lindsay@thevo.co.uk)

## COLLECTS & READINGS

### BCP Readings

*Book of Common Prayer at 8.00 am:*  
2 Corinthians 5:14-end John 20: 11-18

### Collect

Almighty God, whose Son restored Mary Magdalene to health of mind and body and called her to be a witness to his resurrection: forgive our sins and heal us by your grace, that we may serve you in the power of his risen life; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

### Old Testament Reading Song of Solomon 3. 1-4

Upon my bed at night I sought him whom my soul loves; I sought him, but found him not; I called him, but he gave no answer. 'I will rise now and go about the city, in the streets and in the squares; I will seek him whom my soul loves.' I sought him, but found him not. The sentinels found me, as they went about in the city. 'Have you seen him whom my soul loves?' Scarcely had I passed them, when I found him whom my soul loves. I held him, and would not let him go until I brought him into my mother's house, and into the chamber of her that conceived me. raisins.

### New Testament Reading 2 Corinthians 5. 14-17

The love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

### Gospel Reading John 20. 1-2, 11-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.'

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you

weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

### Post Communion Collect

God of life and love, whose risen son called Mary Magdalene by name and sent her to tell of his resurrection to his apostles: in your mercy, help us, who have been united with him in this eucharist, to proclaim the good news that he is alive and reigns, 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 Rain (BCP)

O GOD, heavenly Father, who by thy Son Jesus Christ hast promised to all them that seek thy kingdom, and the righteousness thereof, all things necessary to their bodily sustenance: Send us, we beseech thee, in this our necessity, such moderate rain and showers, that we may receive the fruits of the earth to our comfort, and to thy honour; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Next Week's Readings

United Benefice Service:

1 Corinthians 12: 1-11; John 15: 1-2 & 8-10.