

West Downland Benefice

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

Sunday 23rd December

23rd December 2018 – Fourth Sunday of Advent.

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at Leckhampstead.
6.00pm UB Combined Carol Service, Leckhampstead.

Christmas Eve

3.00pm Carols at Catmore
3.00pm Crib Service at Wickham
10.00pm Holy Communion at Chaddleworth
10.00pm Holy Communion at Wickham
11.30pm Holy Communion at Great Shefford

Christmas Day

8.00am BCP Holy Communion at Fawley
9.30am Family Holy Communion at Great Shefford
10.00am Family Holy Communion at Brightwalton
11.00am Family Holy Communion at Welford

Sunday 30th December

30th December 2018 – First Sunday of Christmas

10.00am United Benefice Holy Communion at Great Shefford

WELCOME

Every year as the Christmas Rush builds to a crescendo of shopping, wrapping and list-writing I reach a point where I realise that this sort of perfection isn't the point of Christmas at all! God sent Jesus into this world to bring his love and light into the chaos and complexity of every aspect of human life. He left the perfection of heaven and, as a tiny baby born in a stable far from home, showed us how God comes to be with us in the muddle. So even if there are still jobs to do, and families to manage, from Jesus' point of view we are all always 'ready for Christmas' and he is always ready to come to be born afresh in our hearts. Miri

Sunday 6th January

6th January 2019 – The Epiphany

9.30am Holy Communion at Fawley
10.00am Together at Ten at Great Shefford
11.00am All Age Communion 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

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

Emergencies during the Holiday Period

Miri will be on call, but will not be dealing with routine parish business 26-29th December, 31st December and New Year's Day. If you need to speak to her urgently please leave a message on her mobile 07954 117093 or contact a churchwarden who will contact her for you.

United Benefice Services during the Christmas Period

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.

Evening Prayer we shall not be gathering for Evening Prayer on 26th December or 2nd January. We meet again on 9th January at 5pm at the Welford & Wickham Sanctuary.

Curate in the West Downland Benefice - 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.

Managing the 'Interregnum' – with the agreement of the PCC's our service rota is being adapted to enable Miri to lead our Holy Communion Services across the Benefice.

Please note the changes in purple.

	Service Pattern from January 2019
Week 1	9.30am Fawley HC
	10am Together @ Ten – Lay led
	11am Wickham Family HC
Week 2	8am Brightwalton HC
	9.30am Great Shefford HC
	11am Leckhampstead HC with coffee before the service
	11am Wickham Matins - Lay Led
Week 3	8am Fawley HC
	9.30 am Chaddleworth
	10am Café Church – Lay led
	11am Welford Matins
Week 4	8am Leckhampstead HC
	9.30am Shefford Woodlands HC
	11 am Brightwalton HC with coffee before the service
Week 5	10am UB Service HC

Collects 23rd Dec

God our Redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Christmas Eve

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; 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.**

Christmas Day

Almighty God, you have given us your only begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; 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.**

30th Dec United Benefice Holy Communion Collect

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity: who is alive and reigns in you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

New Testament Reading Colossians 3: 12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms,

hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Gospel Reading for 30th Dec Luke 2: 41-52

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

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 Juno and Athena Searight baptised at Chaddleworth on 16th December.

Please pray for the recently bereaved and for the families of those whose anniversaries fall during the Christmas period. In particular please pray for the family of Alan Dawkins whose funeral took place this week and for the family of Victor Winney who passed away this week.

In the Deanery Prayer Cycle, we pray for the (23rd) Hungerford with Denford clergy: Mike Saunders, Michael Morecroft, Alison Saunders LLM. (30th) Lambourn Valley clergy: Christine Allsopp.

Readings for 6th January – The Epiphany

Isa.60. 1-6; Eph.3. 1-12; Matt. 2. 1-12.