

West Downland Benefice

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

TODAY

25th March 2018 – Palm Sunday

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

WELCOME

Despite some warm sunshine last weekend's snow has hung on for a surprisingly long time so that fields on higher ground have been edged with beautiful white snow while lower areas are wet and muddy. It's as though the landscape's usual camouflage pattern of greens and browns has been gilded or illuminated so that the colours are deeper or more vivid. A Lent promise is intended to fulfil a similar purpose. Like the remnants of snow in a field that small denial draws attention to the quality and fruitfulness of the rest of our life. In a mysterious way it may help us to see our own 'true colours'.

As Holy Week begins, and we travel with Jesus through the highs and lows of his final days with his friends, (some trustworthy and some not), we have the opportunity to face up to the light and darkness in ourselves and to hear once again how Jesus willingly offered to sacrifice himself for us just as we are, simply because he loves us.

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 Fitcher and Peter Amesbury.

Please pray for those who have recently died and their families, among the John Croysdill whose funeral will be held at 1.30pm on 27th March at West Berkshire Crematorium.

In the Deanery Prayer Cycle, we pray for the parishioners of Hungerford with Denford and their clergy Mike Saunders, LLM Michael Morecroft and Alison Saunders.

NOTICES

The Bishop of Oxford's Outreach Fund have sent thanks for the generous contribution of £687.13 collected at Miri's induction service, which will be put towards work across the Diocese.

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

NOTICES

Duck Derby at East Shefford Farm by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Clive Povey will be held on 1st April at 3.00pm. Teas after in Great Shefford Village Hall. Tickets at £2 from The Swan, the Garage, by contacting 01488 648213 or on the day at the event.

Parish APCM's will be at Leckhampstead Village Hall:

Tuesday 17th April

6.30pm	Chaddleworth
7.20pm	Fawley
8.10pm	Brightwalton

Thursday 19th April

6.30pm	Great Shefford
7.20pm	Welford with Wickham
8.10pm	Leckhampstead

All parishioners are invited to attend their parish APCM.

Westminster Abbey Parish Pass We have three Parish Passes which will admit up to 4 people free of charge (children under 11 are free). If you would like to use one of these passes over the Easter holiday please contact Miri or Mary.

NEXT WEEK

29th March 2018 – Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Holy Communion with Foot-washing
at Leckhampstead

30th March 2018 – Good Friday

9.30am Good Friday Liturgy at Wickham
10.00am Children's Activity Morning at
Great Shefford School
2.00pm Good Friday Liturgy at Brightwalton
2.00pm Good Friday Liturgy at Great Shefford

1st April 2018 – Easter Day

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at Chaddleworth
9.30am Family Holy Communion at Great Shefford
10.00am Family Holy Communion at Fawley
11.00am Family Holy Communion at **Welford**

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@thevo.co.uk

COLLECTS & READINGS

BCP Readings

Book of Common Prayer at 8.00 am:
Philippians 2. 5-11; Matthew 21. 1-13.

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; 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

True and humble King, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory. **Amen**

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 50. 4-9a

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Palm Gospel John 12. 12-16

The great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!' Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: 'Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!' His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

Passion Gospel Mark 15. 1-47

Dramatic versions of this Gospel will be used at services today. An electronic copy of this Gospel will be sent out with this week's Pew Sheet.

Post Communion Collect

Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation: give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and King, to the glory of God the Father. **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:
Colossians 3. 1-7; John 20. 1-10.
Common Worship Readings: Isaiah 25. 6-9;
Acts 10. 34-43; Mark 16. 1-8.

