

# Where's Your Chair?

Mary Magdalene



You have turned my mourning into dancing;  
you have put off my sackcloth and girded me with gladness.  
Psalm 30:11

## **Praising:**

Dear Mary of Magdala, her sins were washed away when on your feet, Lord Jesus, her tears and ointment lay. She who on black Good Friday stood stricken at your pain, amazed, on Easter morning, beheld you risen again.

## **Reading:**

Luke 8:1-3  
The road crew

Mary came from Magdala on the Sea of Galilee and of all her gospel mentions this is the bluntest. In addition to the twelve men who accompanied Jesus on his itinerant preaching ministry, a number of women journeyed with them too. Before giving names, Luke introduces the women by referring to what they have in common: the fact that Christ has

healed them. Listed first (and most dramatically in terms of all she has been delivered from), is Mary. With the other women, Mary's role is to offer practical support and day-to-day care for Jesus and his cohort. It may be that Christ called the women directly and personally, as he called the men. But within the domestic gender roles of the time, the suggestion is that theirs is a more spontaneous response born out of loving gratitude.

## **Listening:**

## **Praying:**

We pray today God for those behind the scenes in our church family

- those who open and close, clean and maintain, order and organise
- those who arrange hospitality, tidy the grounds and make us feel glad we've come
- those who pay bills, oversee accounts and manage purse strings

Father: give me the joy of serving you in the host of practical ways which make such a difference to so many – and which express my thanks for the healing touch of Christ. Amen

## **Doing:**

Friday, 22 July 2016