



The Ross Parishes

rossparishes.uk

Ross-on-Wye

Walford

Brampton Abbots

# Newsletter

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

Second Sunday Before Advent

*A very warm welcome to worship in our parishes today*

*growing inclusive, intergenerational churches that inspire faith, hope and love*

## Today's Services

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November**

8.00am Said Communion, St Mary's

9.30am Sung Eucharist, St Mary's

9.30am Parish Communion, St Michael's Walford

## Music for today's services

**9.30am Sung Eucharist**

**Setting:** Mass of St Thomas, *Thorne*

**Introit:** 360 Bring to the Lord

**Gradual:** 217 The strife is o'er

**Offertory:** 635 For the healing of the nations

**Communion:** Ave Verum, *Elgar*

**Post Communion:** 580 Judge eternal

**9.30 Parish Communion, Walford**

105 Christ whose glory

169 Fight the good fight

374 Just as I am

33 Jerusalem

## Prayer & readings for today

### Collect

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**First Reading** (*Reader: A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.*)

Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labor we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such

persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right. [2 Thessalonians 3. 6-13]

*Reader:* This is the word of the Lord. *All:* **Thanks be to God** [

### **Gospel Reading**

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down." They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them. "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. "But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defence in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls. [Luke 21. 5 - 19]

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### *For our prayers*

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**Those who are ill:** Helen Wynn, Viv Price, Terry Harding, Rosie Taylor, Gerald Altree, Rene Keogh, Sylvia Greer and all who are living with long term illnesses or health problems.

**Those who mourn,** and those who have died; among them Christa Wolf and Evelyne Smith.

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### *Letter from Colin*

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Sometime in the 1970's some friends of mine were keen supporters of the Evangelical Alliance Relief Fund and one of them had been overseas working as a nurse. They were most keen to spread the support for a new venture, a fair trade arm bringing craft items from the poorer countries to sell in the richer ones. And although you had to very brave to drink their instant coffee the fair trade flourished and was floated off financially separate from TEAR FUND. So at the quiz last night (next Saturday as I write this!) fair trade was on my mind. From the sixteenth century European empires were built on trade. Europeans wanted to get their hands on everything... silver; slaves; sugar; spices. But they didn't just want the goods; they wanted the profits that went with controlling the trade as well. As Sir Walter Raleigh pointed out, *"Whosoever commands the trade of the world commands the riches of the world and hence the world itself."* But many centuries earlier God had said through the prophet Isaiah, *"remove the chains of oppression and the yoke of injustice and let the oppressed go free"*. For me, this changes the argument about international trade from an economic one to a moral issue. Firstly, should poor countries have to follow trade policies laid down for them by an international community dominated by the rich, or should they be free to choose the policies

they believe in? Secondly, when people's lives depend on the outcome, should weak and strong compete on equal terms? The tea, coffee and sugar that we use in our church can either come through the trade system supported by the rich and strong, or through the Fairtrade system supported by the poor and weak. We have chosen fair-trade. Hooray!

Colin Leggate

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## *News from the Ross parishes*

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**Walford news:** It's good to be able to report that attendances at Walford Church both for Remembrance Sunday and on Armistice Day were up on recent years. There were wonderful poppy displays in church, and many wreaths laid outside. A new St George's flag has been donated to the church and it flew for the first time over the Remembrance weekend. Bespoke Orders of Service for the Eucharist, suggested by our Rector, will come into use at Walford from Advent. Thanks go to David Thomas and the benefice office for their work on these.

**Coffee morning – 18<sup>th</sup> November, 10.30** – There will be a coffee morning at the home of Bryan and Sue Jones, 21 Merrivale, in aid of Church flowers

**Christmas Tree Festival – Saturday 29 November to Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Stewards needed.** If you would like to help at the welcome desk or keeping an eye on the trees, please put your name down on the rota behind the welcome desk. Thank you. There will also be an opportunity to serve refreshments each day.

**Michael Lunts goes Christmas Crackers**, amongst the trees on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 1.30pm. Come for lunch, see the trees and enjoy Michael's satirical look at the Christmas festivities in song. An afternoon not to be missed. Tickets at £10 available online [bit.ly/4olJ068](http://bit.ly/4olJ068)

**Charitable Giving** As most of you are aware, here at St Mary's we are committed to giving 5% of our income to support other charities, local, national and international. This is in addition to other ways of supporting charities, such as reduced rates for hiring church facilities. If you would like to nominate a charity, please email me at [ross.treasurer@rossparishes.uk](mailto:ross.treasurer@rossparishes.uk) with the name and, for lesser-known charities, a brief summary of their area of operation. This year's giving will be discussed at the next PCC meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> November, I am sorry I have not given more notice.

**Cleaners Wanted** – if you have an hour on a Friday afternoon once a month and could join a friendly group of cleaners, please contact Sue Jones on 07442 163 291

**Publications for sale** – There are various books on the welcome desk, a large portion of the cover price of each goes to St Mary's. Please put cash in the donations safe or use the card reader, by the door.

**Grand Draw** – Our Grand Draw will be drawn at the Christmas Tree Festival so get your tickets now. Tickets available from Jean Brown on Sundays after the 9.30am service or the office and at the Welcome Desk when there is someone on duty.

**Advent in The Valley** - Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December. A circular walk from Tintern Abbey, of some six miles. All welcome and there's no charge. For details, please visit the Day Walk's page of the Journeying website: [www.journeying.co.uk](http://www.journeying.co.uk)

**The Four Last Things – Heaven, Hell, Death and Judgement** - Advent is a time of waiting. We wait for Jesus the infant, coming to live a human life, but we also wait for Christ the Judge,

coming to reward and punish. On the Sundays in and around Advent, Kelvin Price, Emily Goy and John Davies will help us to explore these ancient beliefs in our modern world. Come to listen, ponder, ask questions if you wish. All meetings take place in St Mary's Church Hall from 4.00 pm to 5.30 pm - tea from 3.30 pm.

- Sunday 23 November: Old beliefs in a new world
- Sunday 30 November: Hell and Purgatory, a traveller's guide
- Sunday 7 December: Heaven and how to get there
- Sunday 14 December: Is death the end?

More information from [david@rossparishes.uk](mailto:david@rossparishes.uk).

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## *This week in the Ross Parishes*

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<b>Every day</b>	9.00am Morning Prayer by Zoom, <a href="https://rossparishes.uk/morning-prayer">rossparishes.uk/morning-prayer</a>
<b>Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	10.00am Tots in Tune, St Mary's Hall
<b>Tue 18<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	9.00am Tea & toast and community larder, St Mary's Hall
<b>Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	8.45am Toast & toddle, St Mary's 11.00am Ponder & Pray by Zoom
<b>Thu 20<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	10.00am Said communion
<b>Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Nov</b>	6.00pm Dice & decks, St Mary's Hall
<b>Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov</b>	7.00pm Penyard Singers Concert

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## *Further ahead*

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<b>Thu 27<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	3.00pm - Christmas Trees set up (book: <a href="https://rossparishes.uk">rossparishes.uk</a> )
<b>Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	9.30am – Christmas Trees set up
<b>Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	7.00pm – Concert: Orchestra of the Swan (tickets: <a href="https://createross.co.uk/events">createross.co.uk/events</a> )
<b>Mon 1<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>	1.30pm – Michael Lunts goes Christmas Crackers (tickets: <a href="https://rossparishes.uk">rossparishes.uk</a> )

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## *Contacts*

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**Rector: Revd Prebendary Kelvin Price** | [kelvin@rossparishes.uk](mailto:kelvin@rossparishes.uk)

**Revd Prebendary Caroline Pascoe** | [caroline@rossparishes.uk](mailto:caroline@rossparishes.uk)

**Revd Colin Leggate** | [colin@rossparishes.uk](mailto:colin@rossparishes.uk)

**Revd Canon Professor David Thomas** | [david@rossparishes.uk](mailto:david@rossparishes.uk)

**Very Revd Dr John Davies** | [john.davies102@icloud.com](mailto:john.davies102@icloud.com)

**Reader: Canon Freda Davies** | [freda@rossparishes.uk](mailto:freda@rossparishes.uk)

**Reader: Dr Derek Glover** | [derek@rossparishes.uk](mailto:derek@rossparishes.uk)

**LifeLink Chaplain: Emily Goy** | [emily@rossparishes.uk](mailto:emily@rossparishes.uk)

**Safeguarding: Judith Wiggins** | [safeguarding@rossparishes.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rossparishes.uk)

**Ross wardens: Mark Sanderson** - [mark@rossparishes.uk](mailto:mark@rossparishes.uk) | **Bryan Jones** - [bryan@rossparishes.uk](mailto:bryan@rossparishes.uk)

**Walford wardens: Gay Chinn** - [gay@rossparishes.uk](mailto:gay@rossparishes.uk) | **Murray Alston** - [murray.alston@btinternet.com](mailto:murray.alston@btinternet.com)

**Administrator: Rachael Daniel** | [administrator@rossparishes.uk](mailto:administrator@rossparishes.uk) | 01989 562175 (Mon & Tue)

**Assistant Administrator: Catherine Lewis** | [administrator@rossparishes.uk](mailto:administrator@rossparishes.uk) (Wed – Fri)