



The Ross Parishes

rossparishes.uk

Ross-on-Wye

Walford

Brampton Abbotts

Newsletter

Sunday 30th November 2025

Advent Sunday

A very warm welcome to worship in our parishes today

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

Today's Services

Sunday 30th November

8.00am Said Communion, St Mary's

9.30am Sung Eucharist, St Mary's

Music for today's services

9.30am Sung Eucharist

Setting: Mass of St Cedd – *Nardone*

Advent Prose: verse 1

Introit: 41 Lo, He comes with clouds descending

Gradual: 37 Hark, what a sound

Offertory: 54 Wake, O wake

Communion: Matin Responsory - *Palestrina*

Post Communion: 32 Come thou redeemer

Prayer & readings for today

Collect - Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who 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 letter of Paul to the Romans.*)

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. [Romans 13: 11-end]

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

Gospel Reading - 'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and

giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour. [Matthew 24. 36-44]

For our prayers

Intercessions: Today, the call and response will be:

Lord, come down, **come in, come among us**

Those who are ill: Helen Wynn, Terry Harding, Rosie Taylor, 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 Gerald Altree, Christa Wolf.

Letter from John

The Advent Course, 2025: Some years ago, a distinguished author wrote a book called 'What prevents Christian adults from learning?'. It wasn't an easy read. But it did highlight the inertia that can build up in churches and worshipping communities around exploring the faith. People too easily remember a few highlights from confirmation classes, a book they read long ago, and the odd theme from a sermon. And that's it. Yes, people who nowadays come to church do so often out of a very deep intuition and with a great loyalty to God and the church. And that is impressive and even noble. But often this core belief isn't explored, and questions remain buried and unanswered. So, how brilliant last Sunday to see over thirty people gathered in St Mary's Hall to explore the question, what can we believe today about life beyond this life. After some hospitality, there was a presentation (music and poetry), then a short discussion in small groups, and then a host of really good questions. This week we will look at images of divine judgement, and we'll tackle some tricky questions including: is purgatory plausible, and are all finally saved? Each session is free standing, so if you couldn't make it last week, you'll be very welcome this week: Sunday, 3pm (chosen as a better time), tea from 2.30pm, all in St Mary's Hall. John Davies

News from the Ross Parishes

Gerald Altree RIP - Gerald has been in our thoughts and prayers for some time, he died last Sunday, following a heart attack. We continue to pray for Gerald and for Pam, Kate and Glen and their families at this sad time. Gerald has been a very active member of our community for many decades; he has served on the Deanery Synod for some time and was churchwarden in the 1990s. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to him and to Pam.

Christmas Tree Festival – Saturday 29 November to Tuesday 2 December. Help needed! If you can help at the welcome desk, keeping an eye on the trees or serving refreshments, please write your name on one of the rotas behind the welcome desk. Thank you. This is one of our main fundraising events and this year it is vital as urgent funds are needed to help with access to the church while the tower path is closed.

Michael Lunts goes Christmas Crackers, amongst the trees on Monday 1st 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/4oIJ068

Mothers' Union Tuesday 3rd December at 2.00pm in the Church Hall. Do join us for an afternoon of Christmas memories, readings and refreshments.

Calling all Cake Makers! – Thank you to everyone who has made cakes for us over the last year or so. We have gained a reputation in the town for really good cake and made a lot of money for the church. We are updating our list of willing bakers – if you would like to be added, please tell Jean B, Pat M, Rachel or Jane, or please let us know if you are no longer able to help. Our next plea is for the Christmas Tree Festival when we will be selling refreshments from Saturday to Monday – offers of cake for this will be much appreciated.

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.

Paddle and Praise for Preschoolers – the next session at Walford will be on December 5th at 9.30am – Enquiries to wendy@rossparishes.uk

Blue Christmas Service - Tuesday 16th December at 2.00pm - A service of reflection and hope for those who find Christmas difficult

Advent in The Valley - Saturday 6th 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

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 3.00 pm to 4.30 pm - tea from 2.30pm. More information from david@rossparishes.uk.

- 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?

This week in the Ross Parishes

Every day	9.00am Morning Prayer by Zoom, rossparishes.uk/morning-prayer
Mon 1st Dec	10.00am Tots in Tune, St Mary's Hall 10.00am – 1.00pm Christmas Tree Festival, St Mary's 12.00pm – 1.00pm Prayers for St Mary's, St Mary's 1.30pm Michael Lunts Goes Christmas Crackers
Tue 2nd Dec	9.00am Tea & toast and community larder, St Mary's Hall 10.00am – 4.30pm Christmas Tree Festival, St Mary's
Wed 3rd Dec	8.45am Toast & toddle, St Mary's 11.15 Ponder & Pray via Zoom 9.00pm Compline
Thu 4th Dec	10.00am Said communion
Fri 5th Dec	6.00pm Dice & decks, St Mary's Hall 9.30am Paddle & Praise, Walford
Sat 6th Dec	10.30am Coffee & Sgwrs, St Mary's 7.00pm Border Belles Concert, St Mary's

Further ahead

Tue 9th Dec	12.00pm Funeral for Gerald Altree, St Mary's
Tue 16th Dec	2.00pm Blue Carol Service, St Mary's
Sun 21st Dec	4.00pm Candlelit Carols, St Mary's 4.00pm Carol Service, Walford
Mon 22nd Dec	5.30pm Carols Under The Spire, St Mary's
Tue 23rd Dec	5.30pm Carols Under The Spire, St Mary's
Wed 24th Dec	4.00pm Crib Service, St Mary's 4.00pm Crib Service, Walford 11.30pm Midnight Mass, St Mary's
Thu 25th Dec	9.30am Family Service for Christmas Morning, St Mary's

Contacts

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