



The Ross Parishes

rossparishes.uk

Ross-on-Wye

Walford

Brampton Abbots

# Newsletter

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

Second Sunday of 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 7<sup>th</sup> December

8.00am Said Communion, St Mary's

9.30am Sung Eucharist, St Mary's

9.30 Parish Communion, Walford

## Music for today's services

### 9.30am Sung Eucharist

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

**Introit:** 45 O come, O come, Emmanuel

**Gradual:** 46 On Jordan's Bank

**Offertory:** 30 Come, thou long expected

**Communion:** Prepare ye the way - *Wise*

**Post Communion:** 51 The Lord will come

### 9.30 Parish Communion – Walford

128 Come thou long expected Jesus

527 On Jordan's bank

405 Lo he comes

631 Tell out my soul

## Prayer & readings for today

**Collect** - O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen**

**First Reading** (*Reader: A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.*). For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and

again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope.” [Romans 15: 4-12]

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

**Gospel Reading** - In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’ ” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” [Matthew 3: 1-11]

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## *For our prayers*

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**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, Jacqueline Bowell, and Jean Spencer

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## *Letter from Freda*

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The Christmas cards are already arriving, and the excitement is mounting - here in church several school carol services are planned. But before we get too absorbed in all the razzmatazz, let’s spare a thought for those for whom Christmas is really difficult to cope with – for example, people mourning the loss of loved ones, those worried about their health, parents unable to afford the expensive gift their child is asking for, and so many more for whom Christmas is just another bad day. Of course, we cannot change the world and make everything wonderful but maybe each one of us could reflect a little of God’s love in what we do and say in our daily lives. Christmas is, after all, about love - as Christina Rossetti wrote:

Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, Love Divine,  
Love was born at Christmas,  
Star and Angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,  
Love Incarnate, Love Divine,  
Worship we our Jesus,  
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Worship we the Godhead,  
Love Incarnate, Love Divine,  
Worship we our Jesus,  
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,  
Love be yours and love be mine,  
Love to God and all men,  
Love for plea and gift and sign.

For those who, for whatever reason, find Christmas difficult, our Blue Christmas service at 2pm on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December may provide some comfort and hope for the future. Freda Davies.

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## *News from the Ross Parishes*

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**Gerald Aلتree RIP** - Gerald has been in our thoughts and prayers for some time, he died on 23<sup>rd</sup> November. 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. Gerald's funeral will be on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 12.00pm

**Walford Church news:** New, bespoke orders of service for the Eucharist in Advent come into use today at St Michael's. Special orders of service for Christmas are also being prepared. And in time there will be service orders for each season of the church's year and for 'ordinary time'.

**Christmas Tree Festival – A huge thank you** to the many people who helped with prayers, welcoming, taking money, baking cakes, making soup, washing up, moving furniture, serving refreshments, sweeping up needles (artificial trees seem to shed as much as real trees!) and of course, providing and decorating the amazing trees. The display was stunning. Thank you all very much. We welcomed 1,000 visitors including more than 600 adults, many children including school and nursery classes and 150 concert goers. Almost £6,000 has been raised for St Mary's. Thank you!

**Christmas Flowers** – If you would like to donate towards Christmas flowers, or would like to do an arrangement, please contact Sue Jones on 07442 163291.

**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.

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

**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](mailto:david@rossparishes.uk).

- Sunday 7 December: Heaven and how to get there
- Sunday 14 December: Is death the end?

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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 8<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>  | 10.00am Tots in Tune, St Mary's Hall   |
| <b>Tue 9<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>  | 9.00am Tea & toast and community larder, St Mary's Hall<br>12.00pm Funeral for Gerald Altree                       |
| <b>Wed 10<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> | 8.45am Toast & toddle, St Mary's<br>10.30am Craft @ St Mary's<br>9.00pm Compline                                   |
| <b>Thu 11<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> | 10.00am Said communion   |
| <b>Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> | 6.00pm Dice & decks, St Mary's Hall  |
| <b>Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> | Ross Choral Society Concert, St Mary's   |

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## *Further ahead*

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

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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)