



The Ross Parishes

rossparishes.uk

Ross-on-Wye

Walford

Brampton Abbotts

Newsletter

Sunday 1st February

The Presentation

A very warm welcome to worship in our parishes today

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

Today's Services

Sunday 1st February

8.00am Said Communion, St Mary's

9.30am Sung Eucharist, St Mary's

6.00pm Choral Evensong, St Mary's

9.30am Parish Communion, Walford

Music for today's services

9.30am Sung Eucharist

Setting: Mass of St Thomas - *Thorne*

Introit: 113 When candles are lighted

Gradual: 363 Here in this place

Offertory: 366 Living God, your word

Communion: When to the temple - *Eccard*

Post Communion: 719 Lord the light of your love

9.30 Parish Communion (Walford)

49 As with gladness (omit v4)

105 Christ whose glory

609 Songs of thankfulness

684 Thou whose almighty word

6.00pm Candlemass Carol Service

(See order of service)

Prayer & readings for today

Collect – Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, 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 To The Hebrews*) Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested. [Hebrews 2: 14 - end]

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

Gospel Reading – When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.’ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him. [Luke 2: 22 - 40]

For our prayers

Those who are ill: Terry Harding, Rosie Taylor, Rene Keogh, Helen Wynne, Sylvia Rogers, and all who are living with long term illnesses or health problems.

Those who mourn, and those who have died, among them Sylvia Ethel West, Leslie Brain, Doreen Hibbert and Sylvia Greer.

Letter from Freda

Among the gifts I was given at my confirmation was a Prayer Book. On the first page is a copy of Holman Hunt’s painting ‘The Light of the World’. Typically pre-Raphaelite in composition, it depicts Christ, crowned with thorns, holding a lighted lamp and knocking at a door. Underneath we read the caption ‘The light of the world’. I am sure that many people find this painting inspirational, because Christ is indeed the light that lightens the darkness of the world. According to the church’s calendar, today we may celebrate the feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, a festival that coincides with Candlemas, the Christian Festival of Light. In presenting Christ in the temple, his parents were complying with the rituals set out in the Book of Leviticus, that forty days after the birth of a firstborn son it was required that he be presented at the temple. No doubt Simeon had greeted many such families over the years, but he knew immediately that this child was the promised one, the one he was waiting to see. Now at last the waiting was over and in those beautiful words of what we have

come to know as the Nunc Dimittis: 'Lord now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace'. Simeon was ready to place his life in God's care – 'the light to lighten the Gentiles' had come. Holman Hunt's painting shows Christ knocking at a closed door. Are you ready to open that door and respond, 'Here I am Lord, here I am ready to do your will, here I am ready to share your love in today's world, a world where sometimes the light of Christ is hard to find'?
Freda Davies

News from the Ross Parishes

St Mary's Churchyard - His Majesty's Privy Council met on 10th December, discussed this, and the whole of our churchyard is now closed. This means no further burials can take place, other than those already reserved (we only know of one) and burials of family members in already existing plots where there is room. The Garden of Remembrance is unaffected by this and remains open. The closure notice also means that the responsibility for maintenance of the churchyard will now pass to a local authority. We are hoping this will happen from 1st April. The two collapsed sections of the wall will be repaired by then. More background at <https://rossparishes.uk/churchyard>. MS

Grave stones safety check – before we hand over churchyard maintenance, we need to have carried out a check. Could you help? We'll tell you what to do. Sat 14th Feb 2.00 – 4.00, Sat 28th Feb 10.30 – 12.30. Please have a word with Bryan or Mark.

Paddle and Praise for preschool children: Friday 13th Feb 9.30am – 11.30am. For 4 to 11-year-olds: Friday 13th Feb directly after school - 5pm. Contact wendy@rossparishes.uk

Mothers' Union Wednesday 4th Feb @ 2.30pm in Church Hall. Rev'd David Thomas will tell us about his time working in The Sudan. Hereford Diocese MU is linked with Yambio in South Sudan and it will be good to be better informed about the area. All are welcome to join us. There will be a Bring and Buy stall. **Please note the new starting time, 2.30pm.**

Coffee, Cake and Friendly Chatter - at Castlebrook, Coughton on Tuesday, February 10th 10.30am - 12 noon. All welcome just let me know if you are coming. 07771 614188 or email gay@cobrey.co.uk. Look forward to seeing you! Gay Chinn.

Lent 2026 Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 18th February. There will be a Eucharist for the benefice in St Mary's at 7.00pm, the service to include the imposition of ashes for those who wish.

Lent Course - Here is some news about the benefice Lent course this year. The overall theme will be forms of prayer, and the meetings will take place in St Mary's Hall on these Sunday afternoons: 22nd February, 1st March, 8th March, 15th March, 22nd March, 29th March. More details will follow soon but save the dates now. David Thomas

Volunteers needed - If you feel that you could help for a couple of times a year to provide refreshments after the service on a Sunday, please speak to Judith Wiggins directly or by telephone on 07976432168 or email judithspooner120@gmail.com. Thank you.

Summer Garden Fete Save the date! June 6th. Walford are holding a Summer Garden Fete at The Homme, Hom Green. It will be a fun-packed day with stalls, activities, food, drink and more so please put it in your diaries now! More details will follow.

Dogs in church We welcome well-behaved dogs in St Mary's. But could we ask you, please, to keep your dog on a lead. Thank you.

Compline Services during winter – while the colder weather continues, Compline services at St Mary's on Mondays and Wednesdays may be cancelled on the day if it is very cold and icy. Please check the website for more information.

St Mary's Youth Choir and Club – Could you help for an hour on Wednesdays, from 3.30 to help oversee our new Choir Club? Emily Goy is organising these but some extra help with supervision is needed. It would be on a rota basis, a few times a year. MS

This week in the Ross Parishes

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| Every day | 9.00am Morning Prayer by Zoom, rossparishes.uk/morning-prayer |
| Mon 2nd Feb | 10.00am Tots in Tune, St Mary's Hall 12.00pm Prayers for St Mary's, St Mary's 9.00pm Compline |
| Tue 3rd Feb | 9.00am Community Larder and Tea & Toast, St Mary's Hall 6.00pm Cancer Support Group, St Mary's Hall |
| Wed 4th Feb | 8.45am Toast and Toddle, St Mary's 11.15 Ponder & Pray by Zoom (contact Freda for information) 11.30 Funeral for Leslie Brain, St Mary's 2.30pm Mothers' Union, St Mary's Hall 3.30pm "Connect" Youth Choir club (others welcome) and rehearsal 9.00pm Compline |
| Thu 5th Feb | 10.00am Said Communion, St Mary's |
| Fri 6th Feb | 7.15pm Adult choir rehearsal – St Mary's |
| Sat 7th Feb | 10.30 – Noon, Coffee & Sgwrs @ St Mary's 2.30pm Organ Recital by Suzy St Clair, St Mary's (£10 includes tea) |

Further ahead

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| Wed 18th Feb | 9.30am Toast & Toddle later start time and in St Mary's Hall 10.00am Said Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes 7.00pm Sung Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes |
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Contacts

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