



The Ross Parishes

rossparishes.uk

Ross-on-Wye

Walford

Brampton Abbots

Newsletter

Sunday 11th January 2026

The Baptism of Christ

A very warm welcome to worship in our parishes today

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

Today's Services

Sunday 11th January

8.00am Said Communion, St Mary's

9.30am Sung Eucharist, St Mary's

6.00pm Epiphany Carol Service

9.30am Parish Communion, Walford

Music for today's services

9.30am Sung Eucharist

Setting: Trinity Mass - *Dyke*

Introit: 46 On Jordan's Bank

Gradual: 341 We turn to Christ anew

Offertory: 104 Sons of Thankfulness

Communion: O for a closer walk - *Stanford*

Post Communion: 227 Crown him with many crowns

9.30 Parish Communion (Walford)

419 Lord the light of your love

684 Thou, whose almighty word

483 O for a closer walk

16 All hail the power of Jesus' name

6.00pm Epiphany Carol Service

See service sheet for details

Prayer & readings for today

Collect - Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ your Son 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 Acts of The Apostles.*) Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God

raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’ [Acts 10: 34 - 43]

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

Gospel Reading – Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’ But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.’ Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’ [Matthew 3: 13-end]

For our prayers

Those who are ill: 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.

Letter from The Bishop

January 12th is designated as Blue Monday, the most miserable of the year. The festivities of Christmas are a distant memory, and winter still holds us in its grip. A few valiant daffodils and snowdrops poking through the mud do little to elevate the mood. At least that is the contemporary narrative.

However, we Christians, especially in the Diocese of Hereford are entering into a year of celebration. We have had three years to explore our central values of Christlikeness, prayerfulness and engagement and now we want to celebrate, not least because the diocese is 1350 years old this year. As Bishop of Hereford, it is an extraordinary thing to walk into the cathedral for a service passing a board that shows you have 105 predecessors in an unbroken line back to 676! Our diocese predates England and was carved out of a corner of the ancient kingdom of Mercia and the Romano-British kingdom of Archenfield. It is hard to see any connection between the wild, rural subsistence society of that time and the modern world. And yet our year will celebrate an unbroken thread of Christian faith, about the only thing that does link the ancient past to today. From the first Celtic saints like St Dubricious who brought Christianity to this part of the world in the sixth century, to Putta our first Bishop, expelled from Rochester and finding a home here, to people like St Aedfrith and St Milburgha who linked this then obscure part of the world to wider Christendom. But not just our founders. Christians are described by the Apostle Paul as Saints. The witness of some remains through the centuries. For some there might be a stone memorial, but I doubt anyone will remember much about me as a Bishop in 50 years time when they walk past my name on the board. Over the last 1350 years the Gospel has advanced as much by ordinary people living it out in their homes, workplaces and communities as it has by the few preserved by history. That remains the case today. We would not have the healthcare system, education, good working conditions

in factories, the abolition of slavery and countless other benefits but for such Christian witness and activity. We may feel we are struggling as a church today, but whether acknowledged or not much that is good in the modern world owes its origin to the Gospel. That is well worth celebrating.

Richard

News from the Ross Parishes

Ross Spire in Peril latest information - please keep an eye on the newly created webpage for background and developments with this. The page will be developed over time. <https://rossparishes.uk/spire-in-peril>

The Epiphany Season: In the weeks after the feast of the Epiphany the church gives us a season to celebrate Christ's glory. This Sunday we glimpse the glory that Christ shares with the Father and Holy Spirit in the life of the Trinity. In later weeks we will see the same glory shine out as water is turned to the very best wine, as healing comes to those who seek it, and in the call to 'follow me'. We continue to use the best vestments and altar frontals, some decorations remain in place, and there is a continued rejoicing in God's glorious engagement with humanity. Candlemas Sunday closes the season with special celebrations, and then Lent isn't far off! John Davies

Epiphany Come, Sing & Sup - Sunday 11th January. Join us at 4pm to sing in the choir or join us at 6pm for the service. Supper is now fully booked, but singers and congregation still very welcome.

The week of Prayer for Christian Unity runs from the 18–25 January each year. This year the material has been prepared by the Armenian Church and is on the theme of "One Body, One Spirit". In Ross, there will be an afternoon tea and short service on Sunday 18th January at The Venue, starting at 3pm.

During the following week there will be short (30 minute) prayer meetings as follows

Monday 19th January	12.00pm	CLCR @ TheLarruperzCentre
Tuesday 20th January	6.00pm	St Mary's Church
Wednesday 21st January	12.00pm	St Frances' Church
Thursday 22nd January	7:30 pm	The Community Church (Henry Street)
Friday 23rd January	12.00pm	Ross Baptist Church
Saturday 24th January	12.00pm	The Community Church (Henry Street)

All are welcome at all these events.

The Churches Together in Ross and District Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 26th January 2026 at St Frances of Rome, for fellowship 7:00 pm, for prayer 7:15 pm, meeting starts 7:30 pm

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.

Lent Course The twelfth day of Christmas has passed, and everyone has taken down their trees and packed away the trimmings, so it isn't too early think of what comes next. With Lent starting in just over five weeks, 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. Fuller details will follow soon but save the dates now. David Thomas

This week in the Ross Parishes

Every day	9.00am Morning Prayer by Zoom, rossparishes.uk/morning-prayer
Mon 12th Jan	10.00am Tots in Tune, St Mary's Hall 9.00pm Compline
Tue 13th Jan	9.00am Community Larder and Tea & Toast, St Mary's Hall
Wed 14th Jan	8.45am Toast and Toddle, St Mary's 10.30am Craft @ St Mary's 9.00pm Compline
Thu 15th Jan	10.00am Said Communion, St Mary's
Fri 16th Jan	9.30am Paddle & Praise (Walford) 6.00pm Dice and Decks, St Mary's Hall

Further ahead

Mon 18th Jan	3.00pm Prayer for the Christian Unity Week at The Venue
Tue 20th Jan	6.00pm Service for Christian Unity Week at St Mary's
Sun 25th Jan	11.15am Café Church at Brampton Abbots Village Hall 6.00pm Choral Evensong at St Mary's
Tue 27th Jan	2.00pm Just B bereavement support at St Mary's
Sun 1st Feb	6.00pm Candlemass Service at St Mary's

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