



The Ross Parishes

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Ross-on-Wye  
Walford  
Brampton Abbotts

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

# Newsletter

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026

The Second Sunday of Epiphany

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

## Today's Services

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January**

**8.00am** Said Communion, St Mary's  
**9.30am** Sung Eucharist, St Mary's

**9.30am** Parish Communion, Walford

## Music for today's services

### 9.30am Sung Eucharist

**Setting:** Mass of St Thomas - *Thorne*  
**Introit:** 41 Lo he comes with clouds  
**Gradual:** 603 Bright the vision  
**Offertory:** 621 Dear Lord and Father  
**Communion:** I the Lord of sea and sky - *Schutte*  
**Post Communion:** 510 Will you come and follow me

### 9.30 Parish Communion (Walford)

552 O worship the Lord  
631 Tell out my soul  
97 Christ is made  
534 O praise ye the Lord

## Prayer & readings for today

**Collect** - Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; 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 First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians*) Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. [1 Corinthians 1: 1-9]

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

**Gospel Reading** – The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, ‘Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, “After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.” I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.’ And John testified, ‘I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, “He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.”’ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.’

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, ‘Look, here is the Lamb of God!’ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, ‘What are you looking for?’ They said to him, ‘Rabbi’ (which translated means Teacher), ‘where are you staying?’ He said to them, ‘Come and see.’ They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, ‘You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas’ (which is translated Peter). [John 1: 29-42]

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## For our prayers

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**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, among them Esme Ruth Holder and Sylvia Ethel West

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## Letter from Derek

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Do you recall those playground moments when teams were being selected for a football or netball game? I recall always being the last or penultimate to be picked because I know that I was never a skilful player and couldn’t always remember which way to kick when eventually the ball came my way. As time went on, I realised also that the two chosen captains were always the same lads and were the ‘bully boy’ teacher’s favourites in any physical activity – it just wasn’t fair!

I wonder how the disciples felt when the selection of the Jesus team was being made. Think of the situation and purpose of the team. Jesus knew the folk that he was asking to help him. After all he was then thirty and had known the lakeside community and the locals since his family had settled back into Nazareth. In so far as there was education it had been shared with the others attending the synagogue across the years. They knew each other’s families. They knew how each person had a place in society – and Jesus knew their personal characteristics and foibles.

Further, although Jesus had only just begun his ministry, the companions knew him as an individual, as a skilled carpenter, a man with strong family ties and, no doubt, a thinker, prepared to speak out against the personal and societal wrongs of the time.

Those who were willing to leave all the known in their world for the unknown with Jesus as one of his team, knew that saying 'yes' to Jesus was not a soft option – they were following a revolutionary. Do we willingly follow when, in different ways, we too feel that calling to take a revolutionary approach, or do we simply walk away from the team? Derek

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## News from the Ross Parishes

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**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>

**Volunteers needed** - We all enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit after the service at St Mary's on a Sunday, but we are now getting short of volunteers to help provide the refreshments. If you feel that you could help a couple of Sundays a year please speak to Judith Wiggins directly or by telephone on 07976432168 or email [judithspooner120@gmail.com](mailto:judithspooner120@gmail.com). All help would be gratefully received'

**The week of Prayer for Christian Unity** runs from the 18–25 January. 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 18<sup>th</sup> January at The Venue, starting at 3pm**. During the following week there will be short 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.

Praying for Christian Unity, in this special week of prayer, is no uphill task! For Christian unity already exists, as there is one Christ, one Father and one Spirit. So, in fact it seems we are praying for ourselves, that the prejudices and hesitations we have about other Christian traditions might be softened. And modern ecumenical practice comes to our aid: for we are encouraged nowadays always to find the positives in each other's traditions. What do you like about Baptists, Catholics, the URC tradition, and the others? So, let's turn out this week as a sign of our affection for other Christians, gladly and full of praise! John

**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: 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 1<sup>st</sup> March, 8<sup>th</sup> March, 15<sup>th</sup> March, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 29<sup>th</sup> March. Fuller details will follow soon but save the dates now. David Thomas

**St Mary's Youth Choir and Club** - We're changing the timing and arrangement for this from February. The Youth Choir will be rehearsing 4.30 until 5.30pm on Wednesdays. Before that, from 3.30pm they will have some social time in St Mary's Hall - "choir club", the idea is that they will arrive gradually from school. Emily Goy is taking charge of this but it would be lovely if we could organise a rota of helpers to assist (no need to plan anything, just come along, help with supervision and have a cup of tea). If you'd consider helping with this, perhaps a couple of times a term please let Mark, Jane or Emily know. MS

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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="http://rossparishes.uk/morning-prayer">rossparishes.uk/morning-prayer</a>
<b>Sun 18<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	3.00pm Tea & Service for Christian Unity at The Venue
<b>Mon 19<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	10.00am Tots in Tune, St Mary's Hall 9.00pm Compline
<b>Tue 20<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	9.00am Community Larder and Tea & Toast, St Mary's Hall 6.00pm Service for Christian Unity at St Mary's
<b>Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Jan</b>	8.45am Toast and Toddle, St Mary's 11.00am Ponder & Pray at Freda's house 2.00pm Contemplative Prayer at Freda's house 9.00pm Compline
<b>Thu 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan</b>	10.00am Said Communion, St Mary's
<b>Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan</b>	6.00pm Dice and Decks, St Mary's Hall

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## Further ahead

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<b>Sun 25<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	11.15am Café Church at Brampton Abbotts Village Hall 6.00pm Choral Evensong at St Mary's
<b>Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	7.00pm Churches Together in Ross AGM, St Frances of Rome Church
<b>Sun 1<sup>st</sup> Feb</b>	6.00pm Candlemass Service at St Mary's
<b>Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>	7pm/9pm – Coldplay Candlelight Experience, St Mary's <a href="http://bit.ly/Lumos-ColdPlay">bit.ly/Lumos-ColdPlay</a>

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## Contacts

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