The Ross Parishes

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Ross-on-Wye
Walford
Brampton Abbotts

Newsletter

Sunday 1st March
Second Sunday of Lent
A very warm welcome to worship in the benefice today

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

Today's services

Sunday 1st March
8.00am Said Communion, St Mary's
9.30am All Age Eucharist, St Mary's
9.30am St David's Day Eucharist, Walford

Music for today's services

9.30am All Age Eucharist, St Mary's
Setting: St Anne's Mass - *MacMillan*
Introit: 593 At the name of Jesus
Gradual: 395 Be thou my vision
Offertory: 494 I the Lord of sea and sky
Comm: When I survey - *Chilcott*
Post Com: 667 I danced in the morning

9.30am St David's Day Eucharist, Walford
217 God is Love
77 Blest are the pure in heart
758 Ye watchers and ye holy ones
252 Guide me O thou great redeemer

Prayer & readings for today

Collect Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, 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 Paul's Letter to the Romans*
What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends

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on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. [Romans 4:1-5, 13-17]

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

Gospel Reading

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? 'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.' [John 3:1-17]

For our prayers

Emma & Callum whose banns are being read today.
Those who are ill: Rene Keogh, Terry Harding, Rosie Taylor and all who are living with long term illnesses or health problems.
Those who mourn, and those who have died recently.

Letter from Derek

I have always been somewhat jealous of the Welsh people for two reasons: their rugby skills - although somewhat dodgy at present - and the vitality and togetherness that go with them; and their veneration of St David. It is good to know that, even though we are the wrong side of the border, we have a Festal Eucharist at Walford to-day, 1st March. The Welsh remember and celebrate David in a way which pushes our affinity for St George way back into our sub-conscious. What do we know of David, though? He was born near St Bride's Bay in

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Pembrokeshire around 520 A.D., educated near Cardigan and went from the monastic life to being a missionary throughout Wales. His reputation grew and he was followed because of his preaching ability, obviously with good Welsh 'hwyl', and a succession of healing miracles as well as the establishment of monastic houses seen at their best and loveliest at the now named 'St Davids'. At the same time, in a strongly Celtic environment he showed a love of his country and shared a prayer life summed up as "Be joyful, keep the faith, do the little things you have seen me do." I wonder, also, at the personality of someone who was able to sustain his Christian life and beliefs at a time when Wales was a fought-over territory, when home was little short of some contested land-holding and when the nearest to education and health services was the local priest, or failing that, any passing itinerant preacher. Surely, in this work, David was nearer his Maker than we shall ever aspire to achieve. But maybe the prayer opportunities of Lent will enable us to make a new or renewed start on that journey. Derek

News from the Ross Parishes

Lent Course The second session of *Entering into Prayer* takes place this afternoon in St Mary's Hall from 3.00pm to 4.30pm, with tea and coffee from 2.30pm. Today we look at prayer together in church and prayer alone. It was good to see so many last week, and we look forward to seeing more today.

Lent Lunch The Mothers' Union invite you to join us for a Lent Lunch of delicious homemade soup, bread and butter, and tea or coffee in the Church Hall from 12.15pm to 1.15pm on Wednesday 4th March. Donations to the work of the MU worldwide. Looking ahead, we will be celebrating our 130th anniversary on Mothering Sunday 15th March at 9.30am.

Herefordshire Council are holding a consultation until 26th March on a new Local Nature Recovery Strategy. This includes St Mary's churchyard. For those interested in conservation it is an important opportunity to contribute. Do read the summary document and send comments: https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/conservation/herefordshire-local-nature-recovery-strategy-lnrs/

Sight-Friendly Church St Mary's is now listed as a sight-friendly church by Torch Trust (www.torchtrust.org), which works 'to enable blind and partially sighted people to encounter Jesus, grow in their Christian faith and thrive in Christian community'. To find out how we are working on resources suitable for people with impaired sight, get in touch with the office.

Wye Churches Pilgrimage Do you like walking? We are looking for walkers to test a variety of walks linking 14 churches on a route from Dixton to Hoarwithy. These walks are to be included in the Wye Churches Pilgrimage, a project planned by the Deanery.
What is special about St Mary's? We would like you to help us choose a focus for pilgrims when they visit St Mary's. Please speak to Jane or Rachel to find out more about this exciting project (jane@rossprishes.uk or rachel@rossparishes.uk). They would welcome your ideas.

101 days around the world Save the details**:** St Mary's, 2.30pm on Thursday, 19th March. An illustrated talk by Peter and Marilyn Reynolds about their Round the World Cruise. £10 to include tea and traybakes. All proceeds will go to the Spire in Peril Fund. Invite your friends, family, and neighbours.

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Bring us your Bricks Emily and Mark are hoping to start an after-school LEGO club for children at St Mary's. For this, they need a lot of LEGO pieces and they would welcome any that you, your friends and neighbours may have at home, no matter how many or how few. Please leave any offerings behind the welcome desk in St Mary's.

The Flower Festival Fete celebrating our Wonderful World takes place on Saturday 29th August. This will be a major fundraising event as well as lots of fun. We are looking for stall holders and suggestions that will make it a really special day. Over the weekend we are also hosting a Flower Festival. Book the date now and email rachel@rossparishes.uk with your ideas.

This week in the Ross Parishes

Every day	9.00am Morning Prayer by Zoom, rossparishes.uk/morning-prayer
Mon 2nd Mar	10.00am Tots in Tune, St Mary's Hall
	12.00pm Prayers for St Mary's, St Mary's
	9.00pm Compline, St Mary's
Tue 3rd Mar	9.00am Community Larder and Tea & Toast, St Mary's Hall
Wed 4th Mar	8.45am Toast and Toddle, St Mary's Hall
	11.15am Ponder & Pray via Zoom
	12.15pm Lent Lunch, St Mary's
	3.30 Choir Club, St Mary's
	7.00pm Deanery Synod, Walford
	9.00pm Compline, St Mary's
Thu 5th Mar	10.00am Said Communion, St Mary's
Fri 6th Mar	11.00am World Day of Prayer Service, St Mary's
	6.00pm Dice and Decks, St Mary's Hall
	7.15pm Adult choir rehearsal, St Mary's
Sat 7th Mar	10.30am Coffee and Sgwrs, St Mary's

Further ahead

Sun 8th Mar	**4.00pm** Lent Course, **St Mary's Church** (a later start, leading into Evensong)
	6.00pm Choral Evensong, St Mary's
Thu 12th Mar	7.00pm Book Talk by Matt Sewell, St Mary's
Fri 13th Mar	Lumos Candlelight Concerts – 5.00pm, 7.00pm, and 9.00pm

Contacts

Church Office: 01989 562175

See the 'Who's who' page on the website for members of the ministry team:

Who's who? – The Ross Parishes: Ross-on-Wye, Walford & Brampton Abbotts

Or use this QR code to take you to the page.

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