The Ross Parishes

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Ross-on-Wye
Walford
Brampton Abbotts

Newsletter

Sunday 8th March
Third 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

8.00am Said Communion, St Mary's

9.30am Sung Eucharist, St Mary's
Setting: St Anne's Mass – *MacMillan*
Lent Prose: Verse 2
Introit: 585 All my hope on God is founded
Gradual: 634 Firmly I believe and truly
Offertory: 156 We sing the praise
Comm: Thou wilt keep him – *S. S. Wesley*
Post Com: 761 Praise the Lord, ye heavens

9.30am Parish Communion, Walford
512 O Lord of every shining constellation
45 As the deer pants for the water
119 Come, Holy Spirit, come
665 The spacious firmament on high

6.00 Choral Evensong, St Mary's
Introit: Lent Prose: Verse 3
Hymn: 357 All people that on earth do dwell
Responses: *Sanders*
Psalm: 23 – *Henry Walford Davies*
Hymn: 12 Before the ending of the day
Magnificat: Third Service – *Moore*
Nunc Dimittis: Canticles in E – *Murrill*
Anthem: Lord let me know mine end – *Greene*
Hymn: 763 Praise to the holiest
Dismissal: Ferial – *Naylor*

Prayer & readings for today

Collect: Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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 Paul's Letter to the Romans*
Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character

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produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. [Romans 5: 1-11]

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

Gospel Reading: So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.' Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.' Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that

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you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.' Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

[John 4: 5-42]

For our prayers

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

Letter from The Archdeacon

The Archdeacon of Hereford has written a substantial reflection on the Christian response to war. You can find his full text at: Parish Magazine Article - March 2026 - Diocese of Hereford
The main points he makes are below:

I write this around the fourth anniversary on 22nd February of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It is clear that, despite peace negotiations, this war is seeing people killed and injured on both sides. There are no winners, only losers.

There are many arguments on whether warfare can ever be just and how those lost in war should be remembered. The Bible reminds us that we are called to serve one another and to care for those who suffer.

As Christians we are called to build relationships that create peace and harmony and offer the reconciling power of Jesus' love; in doing so we help to build a better world. Our job is primarily to offer love and support. In this period of Lent perhaps we should all pray for peace and reconciliation wherever there is conflict.

The Venerable Derek Chedzey

News from the Ross Parishes

Lent Course - Music & Prayer Today's session will be held in St Mary's at the later time of 4.00pm. Mark will consider the place of music in prayer, illustrated by examples that will be used at Evensong and in the weeks of Lent and Holy Week ahead. All are invited to stay for tea afterwards, followed by Choral Evensong at 6.00pm.

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How's your Lent Challenge going? It's not too late to find a way of increasing a small amount into a larger one. Ideas on the display board at the back of the church!

St Mary's Annual Church Meetings on 24th March at 7pm. You can read the reports from all our groups online at rossparishes.uk/APCMs/. Limited paper copies are available to borrow and read - if you can read it online, please do.

Would you like to be more involved in the work of the Deanery or the PCC? At St Mary's Annual Meeting we will be electing up to four church members to represent us at the Deanery Gathering - a group of clergy and lay people who meet three times a year. In addition, you would be a member of the PCC. Or if you would just like to join the PCC, we will be looking for new members. More details and application forms can be found on the table near the welcome desk - please do prayerfully consider these important roles.

Alpha Course We are running an Alpha course at St Mary's starting on 21st April for 10 weeks. Alpha is a 10-week course for those curious about faith, allowing time to connect and eat together before discussing and exploring big questions of life, faith and purpose. More information from Emily: emily@rossparishes.uk

Walford news: St David's Day last Sunday saw nearly 60 people at Walford for a Festal Eucharist and party. Harp music, an address on St David, a Welsh flag flying, a feast of food, prayers for the Prince, people and churches of Wales, hymns sung with gusto, a host of daffodils, and a blend of languages, all combined to mark the special day. St David's Day at Walford certainly seems to be part of the benefice calendar now, and very happily so. And now back to the rigours of Lent! John Davies.

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/

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.

The new Connect youth group at St Mary's, are keen to use their talents for the Lent talent project. They are going to present, 'Our Talents' in the Hall at 4.00pm on March 25th. They would welcome members of the congregation to support them. There will be refreshments from 4.00pm, and the performance at 4.15pm promises to be both eclectic and full of imagination and youthful energy. This is a fundraising event that they have completely planned themselves. Tickets on the door for a donation.

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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 9th Mar	10.00am Tots in Tune, St Mary's Hall
	9.00pm Compline, St Mary's
Tue 10th Mar	9.00am Community Larder and Tea & Toast, St Mary's Hall
Wed 11th Mar	8.45am Toast and Toddle, St Mary's Hall
	10.30am Craft @ St Mary's, St Mary's
	9.00pm Compline, St Mary's
Thu 12th Mar	10.00am Said Communion, St Mary's
	7.00pm Book Talk by Matt Sewell, St Mary's
Fri 13th Mar	5.00pm, 7.00pm & 9.00pm Lumos Candlelight Concerts, St Mary's
	6.00pm Dice and Decks, St Mary's Hall
Sat 14th Mar	10.00am Mothers' Union, St Mary's Hall

Further ahead

Sun 15th Mar	9.30am Mothers' Union Celebration for Mothering Sunday, St Mary's
Mon 16th Mar	9.00am Experience Easter (also 9.00am-1.00pm Tuesday 17th), St Mary's
Thu 19th Mar	2.30pm 101 Days Around the World – talk by Peter & Marilyn Reynolds
Fri 20th Mar	9.30am Paddle & Praise at Walford

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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