



The Ross Parishes

rossparishes.uk

Ross-on-Wye

Walford

Brampton Abbots

Newsletter

Sunday 15th March

Mothering Sunday

*A very warm welcome to
worship in the benefice today*



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

Today's services

Sunday 15th March

8.00am Said Communion, St Mary's

9.30am Mothers' Union Celebration of
Mothering Sunday, St Mary's

9.30am Family Service for Mothering
Sunday, Walford

Music for today's services

9.30am Mothers' Union Celebration of Mothering Sunday, St Mary's

Setting: MacMillan (with Peruvian Gloria)

Introit: 715 Lord, for the years

Gradual: 604 Brother, sister, let me serve you

Offertory: My soul proclaims (sheet)

Intercessions: O Lord, hear my prayer (Taizé)

Communion: A Gaelic Blessing - Rutter

Post Communion: 494 I, the Lord of sea and sky

9.30 Family Service, Walford

887 Thank you, Lord, for this new day

411 Lord Jesus Christ

850 Jesus' love is very wonderful

474 Now thank we all our God

Prayer & readings for today

Collect God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful: watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading *Reader: A reading from Paul's Letter to the Colossians*

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

[Colossians 3:12-17]

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

Please ensure your mobile phone is switched to silent or off before worship.

Gospel Reading Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

[John 19:25-27]

For our prayers

Nicole and Harry whose banns are being read today.

Those who are ill: Dene Eward, 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, among them Jean Jones.

Letter from John

The journey through Lent: today we arrive at Mothering Sunday, a day of warmth and ease, a day to give thanks for Mary the mother of Christ and for our own mothers. There are flowers, a break from Lenten disciplines, and at St Mary's, the celebration of a significant anniversary - the Mothers' Union branch celebrates its 130th anniversary. Happy Birthday!

Next Sunday is Passion Sunday, and we will have a sense of the dark forces that will close in on Christ. Then on Palm Sunday, with palm crosses in our hands, we mark the paradox of Christ's entry into Jerusalem, coming to the city as a 'King', but on a donkey, in simplicity, in humility. He will confront the political and religious leaders, he will reveal the weakness of his own closest followers, and he will face his own death. Will he be able to stand by his own teachings of persistent forgiveness, of loving one's enemies? Will a cruel death mark the end of his mission? Will the gospel of love be lost for ever, as followers flee and God seems strangely absent and silent? Holy Week and Easter have so many things to show humanity anew. These will be days in which to watch, look, listen and learn as open hearts and minds are reshaped.

Today we give thanks and celebrate. Then back we go into Lent and Passion tide, with so, so much to absorb.

John Davies

News from the Ross Parishes

Lent course Session 4 at 3.00pm this afternoon in St Mary's Hall, with tea from 2.30pm.

Today, we look at the Lord's Prayer, 'the prayer that Jesus taught us, and also at two forms of silent prayer, just right for busy people in a chaotic world.

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!

Community Larder Stocks are particularly low at the moment, and we have been very busy. We would be grateful for donations of tuna, Weetabix, Shredded wheat, custard, jam and small packs of tea. Monetary donations are always welcome. Thank you

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Lent Challenge Art Sue Wheeler has set up a display of paintings in the church. All are for sale with all monies going to the Spire in Peril Fund. Have a look during the week or speak to Sue on Sunday.

St Mary's Annual Church Meetings 7.00pm on 24th March. Reports from all church groups are available online at rossparishes.uk/APCMs/. A few paper copies are also available to borrow – though if you can read everything 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

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 this 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. To find out more about this exciting project, please speak to Jane or Rachel (jane@rossparishes.uk or rachel@rossparishes.uk). They would welcome your ideas.

101 days around the world 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. Bring along your friends, family, and neighbours.

The new Connect Youth Group Keen to contribute to the Lent Talent Project, the Connect Youth Group will be presenting 'Our Talents' in the Hall on March 25th. They 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.

The Flower Festival Fete celebrating our Wonderful World will be held 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.

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Flower Festival Stall Freda Davies would be delighted to receive donations of costume jewellery for a stall at the Flower Festival in August. Donations can be given directly to Freda, or you can drop them off at the office.

This week in the Ross Parishes

Every day	9.00am Morning Prayer by Zoom, rossparishes.uk/morning-prayer
Mon 16th Mar	9.00am-4.00pm Experience Easter, St Mary's 10.00am Tots in Tune, St Mary's Hall 9.00pm Compline, St Mary's
Tue 17th Mar	9.00am-4.00pm Experience Easter, St Mary's 9.00am Community Larder and Tea & Toast, St Mary's Hall
Wed 18th Mar	8.45am Toast and Toddle, St Mary's Hall 11.15am Ponder & Pray via Zoom 1.30pm Contemplative Prayer, Freda Davies's home 3.30pm Connect Club and Youth Choir rehearsal, St Mary's 9.00pm Compline, St Mary's
Thu 19th Mar	10.00am Said Communion, St Mary's 2.30pm 101 days around the world, St Mary's
Fri 20th Mar	9.30am Paddle & Praise, Walford (private home) 6.00pm Dice and Decks, St Mary's Hall 7.15pm Adult choir rehearsal, St Mary's

Further ahead

Sun 22nd Mar	11.15am Café church at Brampton Abbots 3.00pm Lent Course, St Mary's Hall 6.00pm Choral Evensong, St Mary's
Wed 25th Mar	4.00pm 'Our Talents' presentation by Connect Youth Group, St Mary's Hall
Thu 26th Mar	7.00pm Book talk by Arthur Snell

Contacts

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For a full team list, visit our website: [Who's who? – The Ross Parishes: Ross-on-Wye, Walford & Brampton Abbots](#)

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