



The Ross Parishes

rossparishes.uk

Ross-on-Wye

Walford

Brampton Abbots

Newsletter

Sunday 5th April

Easter Day

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



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

Today's services

Sunday 5th April, Easter Day

6.00am Dawn Service, The Prospect

8.00am Said Communion, St Mary's

9.30am All Age Eucharist, St Mary's

9.30am Parish Communion, Walford

Music for today's Services

9.30am All Age Eucharist, St Mary's

Setting: Mass of St Thomas - *Thorne*

Introit: 205 Jesus Christ is risen today

Exultet: *Shepherd*

Gradual: 221 Ye choirs of New Jerusalem

Offertory: 218 Thine be the glory

Communion: The strife is o'er - *Ley*

Post Communion: 667 I danced in the morning

9.30am Parish Communion, Walford

637 The Day of Resurrection

348 Jesus Christ is risen today

433 Love's redeeming work is done

672 Thine be the glory

Prayer & readings for today

Collect: Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. **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

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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: Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

[John 20: 1-18]

For our prayers

Those who are ill: David Walshaw, Victor Downing, Dene Eward, 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, among them Susan Marshall, Jean Jones and Keith Richards.

Letter from Kelvin

Gaining information is not what it used to be. It is interesting to observe how wrong information gets about. Social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter might be famous for the speed of their communication, but not always their accuracy. Those of us with any wisdom know it is wise to check our facts and not just believe everything we are told at face value.

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This should also apply to our faith. It is no good believing something just because someone said you should. Would faith be genuine if accepted without question? It is perfectly sensible to ask for supporting evidence regarding anything we are told, even with things that are at times more subjective than objective. The Church often seems to struggle and plays into the hands of opposition challenges concerning our beliefs, often because we have an inability to say what and why we believe. It is obvious that we cannot explain everything when we are discussing mysteries, miracles and God's omnipotence. There are some things that are simply beyond the scope of human proof. One of these things is the resurrection of Jesus. We cannot prove it any more than others can disprove it. Nevertheless, I believe we can produce good evidence for it having happened.

One obvious example is the Church itself. How down the centuries could it have survived the human failings that it has if it were simply reliant on our own efforts? Somehow the Church has survived two millennia of challenges, both internally and externally, yet it continues to grow world-wide. One of the main reasons for this surely has to be that its main message to the world is about the love of God. The message of God's love introduces people to know the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and, equally as important, to know his presence, not just as a theological idea, but in real experience towards the meaning of their life. Also, we should not be tricked into thinking that stepping out in faith is the opposite of sound reason. The New Testament tells us that it is not faith that is the opposite of doubt, but fear. We also must honestly consider the teachings that we follow. When considering the Sermon on the Mount, has anyone improved on it? To paraphrase Sir Winston Churchill, 'If everyone in the world followed these teachings all its problems would be fixed.' This is surely a good reason for promoting and personally becoming an apprentice on the way of Jesus.

All of us should ask questions about important issues in life. If we are honest and open to what answers we might get in return, we will surely be better prepared, more confident and clear when needing to stand up for our faith and for what we believe when asked. We need to be confident in our faith and should not live in fear of what others might challenge. Jesus and the Apostles would not have had any success if they lived in fear of the challenges and questions they would face. They lived and died as they did because of the clarity and confidence that they spoke out and lived for the love of God. I am fairly sure none of us will be martyred for discussing our faith with others. So why worry? The world needs more truth, and it seems that the tide is turning, with more and more people beginning to look for a deeper meaning to their lives. Those of us who make up the Church need to be ready with the reasons and evidence for believing in Jesus Christ.

A post-Easter challenge for everyone!

Yours in Christ, Kelvin.

News from the Ross Parishes

Keith Richards Eileen, Anne and Andrew would like to thank everyone for their sympathy, support and good wishes over recent weeks. Keith's funeral will be at St Mary's Church at 12.30pm on Tuesday 14th April, followed by Cremation at 2.00pm at the Forest of Dean Crematorium. All are welcome to attend either or both and afterwards at the Speech House Hotel.

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Alpha Course We are running an Alpha Course at St Mary's for 10 weeks starting at 6.00pm on Tuesday 21st April. Alpha is for those who are 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

Ascension Day This year, Ascension Day falls on Thursday 14th May. There will be a said Communion service in St Mary's at 10.00am, and the main Benefice Eucharist, a sung service led by the choir, will be held in St Michael's, Walford, at 7.00pm. It will be followed by refreshments. Everyone is welcome.

Connect, our weekly young people's club would like to thank everyone who came and supported their Dragon Talent Show. They raised nearly £170 as part of our Lent Challenge. Congratulations to them all for putting on such a wonderful afternoon's entertainment.

This week in the Ross Parishes

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| Every day | 9.00am Morning Prayer by Zoom, rossparishes.uk/morning-prayer |
| Mon 6th Apr | 12.00 noon Prayer for St Mary's, St Mary's |
| Tue 7th Apr | 9.00am Community Larder and Tea & Toast, St Mary's Hall |
| Wed 8th Apr | 8.45am Toast and Toddle, St Mary's 10.30am Craft @ St Mary's 9.00pm Compline, St Mary's |
| Thu 9th Apr | 10.00am Said Communion, St Mary's |
| Fri 10th Apr | 6.00pm Dice and Decks, St Mary's Hall |

Further ahead

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| Wed 15th Apr | 1.00pm Talk: Myths of Nelson's Navy by Herbie Renfield, St Mary's |
| Sat 18th Apr | 7.30pm Monmouth Big Band Concert and Dance, St Mary's |
| Tues 21st Apr | 6.00pm Alpha Course, Session 1, St Mary's |
| Thurs 14th May | 7.00pm Festal Eucharist for Ascension Day, St Michael's, Walford |

Contacts

Rector: Revd Prebendary Kelvin Price | kelvin@rossparishes.uk
Revd Prebendary Caroline Pascoe | caroline@rossparishes.uk
Revd Colin Leggate | colin@rossparishes.uk
Revd Canon Professor David Thomas | david@rossparishes.uk
Very Revd Dr John Davies | john.davies102@icloud.com
Reader: Canon Freda Davies | freda@rossparishes.uk
Reader: Dr Derek Glover | derek@rossparishes.uk
Church Office: administrator@rossparishes.uk | 01989 562175



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