



The Ross Parishes

rossparishes.uk

Ross-on-Wye

Walford

Brampton Abbots

Newsletter

Sunday 26th April

Fourth Sunday of Easter

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



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

Today's services

Sunday 26th April

8.00am Said Communion, St Mary's

9.30am Sung Eucharist, St Mary's

6.00pm Come & Sing Evensong

11.00am Family Service, Walford

11.15am Café Church, Brampton Abbots

Music for today's Services

9.30am Sung Eucharist, St Mary's

Setting: Trinity Mass - *Dyke*

Entry: 664 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds

Gradual: 669 I heard the voice of Jesus say

Offertory: 671 I will sing the wondrous story

Comm: Psalm 23 - *Goodall*

Post Com: 593 At the name of Jesus

11:00am Family Service, Walford

895 Friends of Jesus

736 When I needed a neighbour

752 will you come and follow me

766 You shall go out with joy

6.00pm Come and Sing Evensong for St George

Introit: 300 Glory to you, O God

Responses: *Clucas* **Psalm:** 126

Hymn: (sheet) Leader now on Earth

Canticles: *Dyson in D*

Anthem: Let all the world –*Vaughan Williams*

Hymn: 579 I vow to thee, my country

National Anthem: *Arr. Britten*

Prayer & readings for today

Collect: Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading: *Reader: A reading from The Acts of the Apostles*

The disciples devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all as any had need.

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Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

[Acts 2:42-end]

Gospel Reading: Jesus said: 'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.'

Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.'

[Luke 24:13-35]

For our prayers

Those whose banns are to be read today: Darren and Janice, St Mary's (third reading).

Those who are ill: Simon Andrews, David Walshaw, 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: Stuart Robinson.

From the Bishop - full article at www.hereford.anglican.org/news

May is a month of transition. At the beginning, it can feel winter with frosts and rain. By the end, summer feels just around the corner with longer evenings and warmer days.

Ecclesiastes contains that well known passage about times and seasons, a time to plant and a time to harvest; a time to mourn and a time to laugh; a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing. This year, our diocesan family is focusing firmly on celebration. I have always thought that the continued existence of the church is one of the surest proofs of the resurrection. How could an organisation composed of frail, sinful people like you and me still be here but for divine intervention? No other human organisation has continued in this way. The world was vastly different 1350 years ago when Putta made the gruelling journey here from Rochester to become our first Bishop. Over the course of our existence, kings have risen and fallen; cathedrals have been burnt down and rebuilt, fallen and been rebuilt again!

Meanwhile, in over 400 churches Christians have gone about the work of the gospel. Priests have hatched, matched and dispatched, celebrated the sacraments and taught the faith. All this has happened in the power of the Holy Spirit, whose gift we will celebrate at the end of this month. We have never had to do it on our own, dependent on our own ingenuity. To be a Christian is to be empowered by the Holy Spirit. God's faithfulness and that power are definitely worth celebrating.

+ Richard

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News from the Ross Parishes

Alpha Course The second session of the Alpha Course will be in St Mary's at 6.30pm on Tuesday, 28th April. Alpha is for those who are curious about faith, allowing time to eat together before discussing and exploring big questions of life, faith and purpose. More information from Emily: emily@rossparishes.uk.

Each session starts with a meal for participants attending straight from work. If you can provide a meal for one of the 10 evenings or can help in the kitchen please let Emily or Jean Brown know. The cost of the meal will be reimbursed.

Christian Aid Week, this year from 10th to 16th May, is one of the biggest acts of Christian witness in the UK. The emphasis this year is on urban poverty in Kenya. For needy people there, it is a precarious, stressful life where hardship means hunger. Envelopes will be distributed on Sunday 10th and collected the following Sunday (or as near as possible). Cash or cheques are welcome, as well as on-line giving. Many thanks, Jean Harrison.

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.

Thy Kingdom Come It has been eleven years since the Archbishops of Canterbury and York launched 'Thy Kingdom Come', a period of ten days, from Ascension Day to Pentecost, when we are invited to pray for five people or situations where there is need.

As last year, you are welcome to join in the 24-hour prayer vigil from midnight on 17th May to midnight on 18th May. Choose a half-hour or hour slot in the 24 hours to spend either at home or with others, praying that God will be with you and those for whom you pray.

Please sign your name on the sheet in the Markye Chapel, where you will find booklets, prayer diaries, cards and wrist bands (make five knots in this and wear it on your wrist for the ten-day period). You are also welcome to join Freda Davies in St Mary's at noon on Thursday 14th May for a short service of prayer to launch this year's 'Thy Kingdom Come'.

Flower Festival Weekend 29th-31st August Volunteers are needed to run the following stalls on Saturday 29th August: Cakes, Preserves, Bric a Brac, Plant Stall, Bottle Stall, Book Stall and Mystery Parcels. Contributions can be made nearer the time, though Freda is already collecting items for the Jewellery Stall. Refreshments and light lunches will be available throughout the three days. If you can help, please see Sue Jones or Jean Brown, who are collecting recipes for our Church Events Recipe Book that will be on sale during the Festival.

Ross in Bloom- St Mary's *It's Your Neighbourhood (IYN)* application for Heart of England in Bloom has been accepted for the Railway Garden! The judge has been in touch and has suggested a visit in July, and there is plenty to do before then.

If you would like to join in, please let Colin Leggate know on 01989 564536.

Date for your diary: Pentecost BBQ lunch Sunday 24 May This year our annual ecumenical Pentecost event will be a celebration BBQ lunch and activities for all ages. All invited! We do hope you can come! Bring friends, family, neighbours! BBQ provided. Bring picnic extras, cake to share, rugs/chairs etc. 12 noon onwards. In St Mary's church and grounds. Kelvin and Caroline

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This week in the Ross Parishes

Every day	9.00am Morning Prayer by Zoom, rossparishes.uk/morning-prayer
Mon 27th Apr	10.00am Tots in Tune, St Mary's Hall 7.30pm Walford APCM, Walford 9.00pm Compline, St Mary's
Tue 28th Apr	9.00am Community Larder and Tea & Toast, St Mary's Hall 11.30am Funeral for Susan Marshall, St Mary's 2.00pm Just B Bereavement Support, St Mary's 6.00pm Alpha Course, St Mary's
Wed 29th Apr	8.45am Toast and Toddle, St Mary's 4.00pm Connect Club and Youth Choir rehearsal, St Mary's Hall and St Mary's 9.00pm Compline, St Mary's
Thu 30th Apr	10.00am Said Communion, St Mary's
Fri 1st May	6.00pm Dice and Decks, St Mary's Hall 7.15pm Adult Choir Practice, St Mary's
Sat 2nd May	10.30am Coffee and Sgwrs, St Mary's

Further ahead

Mon 4th May	12.00pm Prayers for St Mary's, St Mary's
Tue 5th May	6.30pm Alpha Course, Session 2, St Mary's
Wed 6th May	1.00pm Lunchtime Concert by Matthew Nisbett, St Mary's
Sun 10th May	3.00pm Ross Choristers Concert, St Mary's
10th-16th May	Christian Aid Week
Mon 11th May	2.30pm Talk – the strange lives of Medieval Saints, St Mary's
Thu 14th May	10.00am Ascension Day Eucharist, St Mary's 12.00pm Thy Kingdom Come launch service, St Mary's 7.00pm Ascension Day Benefice Eucharist with choir, Walford
10th-11th Oct	The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Dame Sarah Mullally, to visit Hereford Diocese

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: Catherine Lewis	administrator@rossparishes.uk 01989 562175



Office opening hours are Wednesday 9.00am-3.00pm, Thursday and Friday 9.00am-2.00pm.

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