

The Ross Parishes

rossparishes.uk

Ross-on-Wye

Walford

Brampton Abbots



Newsletter

Sunday 20th September

**Matthew, Apostle &
Evangelist**

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



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

Today's services

Sunday 20th September

8.00am Said Communion, St Mary's

9.30am Sung Eucharist, St Mary's

9.30am Parish Communion, Walford

Music for today's services

9.30am Sung Eucharist, St Mary's

Setting: Mass of St Thomas - *Thorne*

Introit: 487 Christ is the one who calls

Gradual: 300 Glory to you, O God

Off: 268 Affirm anew the three-fold name

Comm: Love divine - *Goodall*

790 Teach me, my God and King

Post Com: 671 I will sing the wondrous story

9.30 Parish Communion, Walford

16 All hail the power of Jesus' name

72 Bind us together

689 Thy hand, O God, has guided

755 Ye holy angels bright

Prayer & readings for today

Collect O Almighty God, whose blessed Son called Matthew the tax collector to be an apostle and evangelist: give us grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain and the possessive love of riches that we may follow in the way of your Son 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 St Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians.*

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

[2 Corinthians 4:1-6]

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 As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.' [Matthew 9:9-13]

For our prayers

Those being married: Harry Porter and Megan Jones, Saturday 26th September, St Mary's.

Those being confirmed in October: Robert Allen, Jessica Allen, Joshua Price, Isabella Bradley-Davies, Saffron Niblock, Jem Jenkins-Jones, Abigail Kingsmill-Parsons, Daniel Parsons, Cameron Hill, Tatty Marshall, Gracie Harness, Catherine Lewis.

Those who are ill: Sally, Josie O'Driscoll, Jamanda Hobson, Alison Virgo, David Walshaw, Rene Keogh, Rosie Taylor, Duncan, and all who are living with long term illnesses or health problems.

Those who mourn and those who have died, including Alison Edgington and Rose Willetts, Anne Wadely, George Taylor.

News from the Ross Parishes

Thank you to all those who contributed in many different ways towards the success of the Flower Festival, Garden Fete and h.Art week, including those who provided refreshments, performed stewarding, gave various types of donations and helped with moving and setting up chairs and tables throughout the last three weeks. The Flower Festival and Fete raised more than £5,000, which was a wonderful result, and h.Art has also raised about £3,000. Well done, everyone!

Today - Michael Lunts Concert Michael, who many people in the benefice will know, is returning to St Mary's at 3.00pm today. He will be performing 'The Enigma of Edward Elgar', a one-man show with music, which tells the story of how Elgar came to compose the Enigma Variations. Tickets, at £15.00, are available on the door and from createross.co.uk/events.html.

Harvest Service at Walford The Benefice Harvest Festival Service will be held at St Michael's Church, Walford, at 9.30am on Sunday 27th September. Everyone is warmly invited to this celebration and refreshments afterwards, and to hear the annual report on the 2026 farming year. There is ample parking space in the field next to the church.

At the service there will be an opportunity to donate non-perishable items for the Community Larder at Ross, especially canned goods (tinned soup, baked beans, tuna, meat, custard, rice pudding), tea bags and toilet rolls. Donations can also be left at St Mary's Church Office during opening hours.

On 27th September, there will be a service of Holy Communion at St Mary's at 8.00am.

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Safeguarding Training On Thursday 24th September there will be a Domestic Violence Awareness Safeguarding Course taking place in St Mary's from 11.00am-2.00pm. This course is now mandatory for Local Lay Ministers; everyone working with children, young people and vulnerable adults, including Pastoral Visitors. It is also recommended for all Church Officers and PCC members. Please try to attend if you can, although the course is also available on-line. Refreshments will be provided. Judith Wiggins

Do you like figures? Could you spare about three hours a week to help St Mary's? If so, we would love to hear from you. We are looking for a treasurer for the church. This is a vital role but not as daunting as it might sound as there are plenty of people who help. To find out more, pick up a leaflet or speak to Roy or Kelvin.

Articles for the Newsletter We welcome short articles to include in the Newsletter when space allows. If you organise or are involved in a group that uses the church or helps with its day-to-day running, please write a brief article 150-200 words long about what you do. Or if you are involved in something, e.g. fundraising, that you think will interest the church community, please tell us about it. Articles should be sent to Catherine at administrator@rossparishes.uk. The weekly deadline for articles and notices is 12.00 noon on Wednesdays.

Life in the Ross Parishes

Celebrating the Saints At various points through the year, we celebrate the principal Saints of the Church. Take St Matthew, the saint we celebrate today. At the time of the first Christians, the Jews hated the Roman occupiers of their land. After the Romans destroyed the Temple in AD 70, the Jews loathed them. So, imagine becoming a Christian perhaps in AD 80, and hearing that Christ had called Matthew – a turncoat, a Jew who had fallen in with the Romans and profited from occupation by collecting taxes on their behalf. He became a disciple of Christ and an Apostle, and one of the Gospels bore his name. You'd be horrified, you'd also be profoundly challenged.

That's what Christ does. He always seeks to redirect our comfortable assumptions: who to like, who to help. He drew this quisling, a turncoat, right into his inner circle. 'Do likewise,' says the Gospel. So, when did I last reach out to someone who wasn't 'of my tribe'? Who can I get to know, even someone who might make me feel even slightly uncomfortable?

Isn't it brilliant that through the year in this benefice we keep the saints' days! Their stories have so much to reveal to us of Christ's grace. Matthew's story is certainly one to treasure and to be reshaped by, with gladness. John Davies

This week in the Ross Parishes

Every day	9.00am Morning Prayer via Zoom, rossparishes.uk/morning-prayer
Sun 20th Sept	11.00am Confirmation Preparation, St Mary's Hall
	3.00pm Michael Lunts Concert: The Enigma of Edward Elgar, St Mary's
	9.00pm Compline via Zoom. Use the same link as for Morning Prayer

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Mon 21st Sept	9.30am Mental Health Group, St Mary's 10.00am Tots in Tune, St Mary's Hall 9.00pm Compline, St Mary's
Tue 22nd Sept	9.00am Community Larder and Tea & Toast, St Mary's Hall 2.00pm Just B, Bereavement Support, St Mary's
Wed 23rd Sept	8.45am Toast & Toddle, St Mary's – 10.30am Craft@St Mary's, St Mary's 3.30pm Connect Club and Youth Choir practice, St Mary's Hall, St Mary's 9.00pm Compline, St Mary's
Thu 24th Sept	9.30am Volunteer Voices Forum, St Mary's Hall 10.00am Said Communion, St Mary's 11.00am Domestic Abuse Awareness Course
Fri 25th Sept	7.15pm Adult Choir practice, St Mary's
Sat 26th Sept	7.00pm Concert: Border Belles with Drybrook Brass Band, St Mary's

Further ahead

Sun 27th Sept	8.00am Holy Communion, St Mary's 9.30am Benefice Harvest Festival Service, Walford
Fri 2nd Oct	Photography Exhibition U3A Shutterbugs, St Mary's (every day until 9 th October)
Sat 3rd Oct	10.30am Coffee and Sgwrs, St Mary's
Wed 7th Oct	1.00pm Lunchtime concert: Ruth Cartledge, Harp melodies. St Mary's
Thu 8th Oct	6.30pm Book Talk, Amy Jeffs, "Arthur: A New Life", St Mary's
Sat 10th Oct	2.00pm Confirmation Service, St Laurence's Church, Ludlow

Contacts

Rector: Revd Prebendary Kelvin Price
Curate: Revd Dr Owen Pembery
Revd Prebendary Caroline Pascoe
Revd Colin Leggate
Revd Canon Professor David Thomas
Very Revd Dr John Davies
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Use the QR Code to go to the website for full details of who's who

Office opening hours: Wednesday 9.00am-3.00pm, Thursday and Friday 9.00am-2.00pm.
Catherine can also be contacted via email on Monday mornings.