The Ross Parishes

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Ross-on-Wye
Walford
Brampton Abbotts

Newsletter

Sunday 15th November
Second Sunday Before Advent
A very warm welcome to worship in the benefice today

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

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

Today's services

Sunday 15th November
8.00am Said Eucharist, 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: 511 (tune 490) Your voice, O God
Gradual: 356 All nations of the world
Offertory: 676 Immortal, invisible
Comm: God be in my head - *Wilby*
127 Lord Jesus, think on me
Post Com: 780 Soldiers of Christ, arise

9.30am Parish Communion, Walford
70 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
144 Dear Lord and Father of mankind
105 Christ whose glory fills the skies
752 Will you come and follow me?

Prayer and readings for today

Collect
Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he 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 the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians*
Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of

salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

[1 Thessalonians 5:1-11]

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

Gospel Jesus said: 'It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." [Matthew 25: 14-30]

For our prayers

Those who are ill: Pam Harding, Alison Virgo, Rene Keogh, Rosie Taylor, Duncan, Agnes Charnock, and all living with long term illnesses or health problems.
Those who mourn and those who have died, including Graham Thornton Hunter-Blair, Geoffrey Wooding and Richard Butler.

News from the Ross Parishes

Today - Ukrainian Community Christmas Tree of Hope Everyone of all ages, cultures and backgrounds is invited to come and make Christmas tree decorations together today. Our work will provide decorations for a fabulous Christmas tree that we can all enjoy, and will remind us of everything we have in common in a world which seems to be pushing us apart. Join us in St Mary's at 2.30pm this afternoon.

Charitable Giving As many at St Mary's will be aware, the church is committed to giving 5 per cent of its income to support other charities, local, national and international. This is in

addition to other ways of giving support, such as by offering a reduced rate for hiring church facilities. Whilst the PCC is happy to select suitable recipients for our giving, we know that there are many worthwhile causes, some close to our own hearts. If you would like to nominate a charity, please email me at ross.treasurer@rossparishes.uk with the name of the charity and, for lesser-known charities, a brief summary of their area of operation. Charitable giving will be discussed at the next PCC meeting on Tuesday this week, 17th November, so please let me have your suggestions before then. Thank you. Roy Milnes

Posada (Spanish for 'Inn') For a number of years the beginning of the Advent season has been marked by the start of the journey of the crib figures of Mary and Joseph leaving St Mary's to travel around the parish looking for a safe, warm place to stay. They will leave church on 29th November and return on Christmas Eve. If you are able to provide a shelter for them, please email Margaret Mason on posada@rossparishes.uk, or speak to her after the service. This is a good opportunity to get to know new and old members of the congregation as the figures travel from home to home, with perhaps the exchanging hosts sharing a cup of tea or coffee together. It is open to everyone, and lots of families find it's a great way to be involved in the Christmas story.

Christmas Cards As a St Mary's bellringer, I am selling Christmas cards featuring our mascot hedgehog on his festive travels - £4 for a pack of 4 cards in aid of the Spire Appeal. If you are interested, please find me in church, or email me on walker.echr@gmail.com, Elizabeth Walker.

Advent in the Valley A Day Walk beginning and ending at magnificent Tintern Abbey in the Wye Valley, Saturday 5th December. For details and to book (no charge) please visit the Journeying website, www.journeying.co.uk, or see David Gleed in St Mary's.

Life in the Ross Parishes

Ministry to people unable to come to church While new faces are welcomed to St Mary's regularly, there is also a growing number of elderly Ross people who can no longer get to church. In order to maintain links with these loyal worshippers, a team from St Mary's congregation visit them regularly. We usually lead monthly services of Holy Communion in their homes, for which we take bread and wine that has been blessed at a service in church to share with them. In Ross Court Residential Home we lead thirty or so people in a Communion service each month, while in Goodrich Court Freda Davies conducts a monthly inter-denominational service of hymns and prayer for ten or so residents, and also occasional, and usually seasonally related, Communion services.

I myself visit West Bank Residential Home four times each week, spending time with people who have dementia. I also organise a monthly dementia-friendly hymn and prayer 'big' service for some thirty-five residents, and a monthly inter-denominational Communion service, which is attended by around fifteen people. During the week, Mary Phillips and Sue Jones visit West Bank, where they have established valued friendships with residents as they relive their past lives. Jane Rothery organises a monthly 'big' service for fifteen residents of Rosedale Residential Home, where she is assisted by Mary Brigg, who provides music, and her dog Maisie, who supplies company.

We always need more volunteers in our team for work that is much needed and very fulfilling. I will gladly speak to anyone who would like to assist this ministry to more than a hundred people each month. Derek Glover, derek@rossparishes.uk.

This week in the Ross Parishes

Every day	9.00am Morning Prayer via Zoom, rossparishes.uk/morning-prayer
	Every day until 24th November, exhibition of Nursing in WW1, St Mary's
Sun 15th Nov	2.30pm Ukrainian Community Christmas Tree Project, St Mary's
	9.00pm Compline via Zoom. Use the same link as for Morning Prayer
Mon 16th Nov	9.30am Mental Health Group, St Mary's
	10.00am Tots in Tune, St Mary's Hall
	12.00pm Funeral service for Geoffrey Wooding, St Mary's
	9.00pm Compline, St Mary's
Tues 17th Nov	9.00am Community Larder and Tea & Toast, St Mary's Hall
	12.00pm Memorial Service for Graham Hunter-Blair, St Mary's
	7.00pm PCC Meeting, St Mary's
Wed 18th Nov	8.45am Toast & Toddle, St Mary's
	11.00am Ponder and Pray via Zoom
	1.30pm Contemplative Prayer, Freda Davies's home, freda@rossparishes.uk
	3.30pm Connect Club and Youth Choir rehearsal, St Mary's Hall & St Mary's
	9.00pm Compline, St Mary's
Thurs 19th Nov	10.00am Said Communion, St Mary's
Fri 20th Nov	7.15pm Adult Choir Practice, St Mary's
Sat 21st Nov	7.00pm Emma Rowland- Elsen Silver Gala Concert, St Mary's

Further ahead

Sun 22nd Nov	6.00pm Choral Evensong on the Feast of Christ the King, St Mary's
Mon 23rd Nov	1.00pm Funeral Service for Richard Butler, Walford
Tue 24th Nov	2.00pm Just B Bereavement Support, St Mary's
Sat 28th Nov	7.00pm Concert by Ross-on-Wye Singers, St Mary's
Sun 29th Nov	5.00pm Advent Carol Service, St Mary's

Contacts

Rector: Revd Prebendary Kelvin Price	kelvin@rossparishes.uk
Curate: Revd Dr Owen Pembery	owen@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
Life link Chaplain: Emily Goy	emily@rossparishes.uk
Church Office: Catherine Lewis	administrator@rossparishes.uk 01989 562175

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.