The Ross Parishes

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Ross-on-Wye
Walford
Brampton Abbotts

Newsletter

Sunday 8th November
Remembrance Sunday
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 8th November

9.00am Said Eucharist, St Mary's
10.50am Wreath laying at the Prospect
11.15am Festival of Remembrance, St Mary's
10.55am Remembrance Sunday Service, Walford
6.00pm Choral Evensong, St Mary's

Music for today's services

9.00am Said Eucharist
579 I vow to thee, my country
578 God save our gracious King

10.55am Remembrance Sunday Service, Walford
See the printed order of service

11.15am Festival of Remembrance, St Mary's
Hymn: 621 Dear Lord and Father of mankind
Anthem: Greater Love - *Ireland*
Hymn: 623 Eternal Father, strong to save
Hymn: 645 God is our strength
Hymn: 578 God save our gracious King

6.00pm Choral Evensong, St Mary's
Introit: 823 Who would try valour see
Responses: *Radcliffe*
Psalm: 126
Hymn: 764 Peace, perfect peace
Canticles: *Walmisley* in D minor
Anthem: Greater Love - *Ireland*
Hymn: 578 God save our gracious King
Dismissal: *Naylor* (ferial)

Prayer and readings for today

Collect
Lord of the nations, Saviour and judge of all: remove from human hearts all bitterness and hate, grant to those who have died in war your mercy and forgiveness and bring us all to the peace of your eternal Kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who suffered and died, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

First Reading *Reader: A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians*
But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming

of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words. [1 Thess. 4:13-end]
Reader: This is the word of the Lord. *All:* **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Jesus said: 'Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.' [Matthew 25: 1-13]

For our prayers

Those who are ill: Pam Harding, Jamanda Hobson, 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 and Richard Butler.

News from the Ross Parishes

New Associate Minister The Revd Becky Bevan, Vicar of South Newbury in the Oxford Diocese, has been appointed as Associate Minister in the Ross Parishes. The Bishop will licence Becky at Walford Church at 7.00pm on 25th January 2027.

Armistice Day, Wednesday 11th November 2026 As part of the national marking of the day, a short service will be held in Ross outside the Market House at 11.00am. At Walford Church, also at 11.00am, there will be a short service at the War Memorial followed by prayer at each point in the Avenue of Remembrance and the churchyard where the fallen of the community are named.

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 17th November, so please let me have your suggestions before then. Thank you. Roy Milnes

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. Please find me in church if you are interested, or email me on walker.echr@gmail.com, Elizabeth Walker

Deanery Roadshow 11th November 7.00pm at St Mary's. Don't miss the opportunity to hear from the Archdeacon and Diocesan Director of Mission and Ministry about plans for Shared Local Ministry in the diocese. This is an opportunity for worship and connection, time to ask questions and seek answers. **Compline on 11th November** will start at the slightly earlier time of 8.40pm as a conclusion to the Deanery Roadshow.

Paddle and Praise for pre-school children, 9.30-11.30am, on November 13th and December 4th; for 5 to 11-year-olds, after school until 5.00pm on Friday 13th November and Friday 15th January 2027. Please contact Wendy Alston for more details, wendy@rossparishes.uk.

Ukrainian Community Christmas Tree of Hope Everyone of all ages, cultures and backgrounds is invited to come and make Christmas tree decorations together. This will help us to decorate a fabulous Christmas tree to 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 on Sunday 15th November.

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

A Churchwarden's Perspective What does a churchwarden actually do? As one of the wardens at St Michael's Church, Walford, this is a question I am sometimes asked, and the honest answer is: rather a lot! Some of it is visible to the congregation, but much of it happens quietly behind the scenes.

Being a churchwarden is both a privilege and a responsibility, giving me the opportunity to serve our church and our wider parish community. From ensuring that the church is prepared for services and welcoming people through the doors, to helping care for an historic building and churchyard and supporting the clergy, there is always something to be done.

This is only possible by working closely with the Parochial Church Council and our many willing volunteers, whose support is invaluable in maintaining the life and ministry of St Michael's church.

One of the most rewarding aspects of being a churchwarden is meeting and working with so many different people. Whether welcoming regular worshippers, helping at special services, or simply having a conversation with someone who has come through the door for the first time, these moments remind us that our church is much more than a building.

There are, of course, challenges, especially in respect of caring and maintaining a building that in parts is more than 800 years old (making it one of the oldest church buildings in Hereford Diocese). But it is a pleasure to serve St Michael's parish and help keep the church a place of worship, welcome, friendship and prayer for generations yet to come. Gay Chinn

This week in the Ross Parishes

Every day	9.00am Morning Prayer via Zoom, rossparishes.uk/morning-prayer
	All day until November 24th, Exhibition: Nursing in WW1, St Mary's
Sun 8th Nov	6.00pm Choral Evensong, St Mary's
	9.00pm Compline via Zoom. Use the same link as for Morning Prayer
Mon 9th Nov	9.30am Mental Health Group, St Mary's
	10.00am Tots in Tune, St Mary's Hall
	9.00pm Compline, St Mary's
Tue 10th Nov	9.00am Community Larder and Tea & Toast, St Mary's Hall
Wed 11th Nov	8.45am Toast & Toddle, St Mary's
	10.30am Craft@St Mary's, St Mary's
	11.00am Armistice Day Act of Remembrance, Walford Church
	3.30pm Connect Club and Youth Choir rehearsal, St Mary's Hall & St Mary'
	6.30pm (for 7.00pm) Deanery Roadshow, St Mary's followed by Compline
	8.50pm Compline, St Mary's
Thu 12th Nov	10.00am Said Communion, St Mary's
	7.00pm Book Talk, *Ink, Paper, Chisel, Grain* by Paul Coldwel
Fri 13th Nov	7.15pm Adult Choir Practice, St Mary's

Further ahead

Sun 15th Nov	2.30pm Ukrainian Community Christmas Tree of Hope, St Mary's
Tue 17th Nov	7.00pm PCC meeting, St Mary's
Sat 21st Nov	7.00pm Emma Rowland-Elsen, Silver Gala Concert, St Mary's

Contacts

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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.