



The Benefice of Ross
with Walford
and
Brampton
Abbotts

Newsletter

2nd December 2018

1st Sunday of Advent

We offer a warm welcome to everyone at our services today.

rawchurch.org.uk



The Ceremony of the Boy Bishop. Have you ever attend this traditional ceremony at our cathedral? It's a medieval custom with much relevance today. The tradition stems from a wish to model the humility of Christ in those who hold high office. By this, the cathedral choristers would elect one of their number to act as 'Boy Bishop'. He would hold office from the Feast of St Nicholas (6 December) until Holy Innocents Day (28 December) and would undertake certain duties usually reserved to the bishop himself, thus reminding the bishop that he, like all, need to 'become like children in order to enter the kingdom of Heaven'.

The tradition lapsed for centuries but was revived at Hereford in 1982. This year, it takes place on Sunday 9 December at 3.30pm, during Evensong and all are welcome.

What will happen? The Boy Bishop, now appointed by the Precentor and Director of Music (and generally a 'retired' chorister') will enter at the beginning of the service, accompanied by the other choristers and two attendants. He is dressed in full episcopal attire – with mitre, cope and ring. He is greeted by Bishop Richard, affirmed in his office and given the bishop's crozier, or pastoral staff, to hold for much of the service. Then, accompanied by his attendants, he

approaches the altar, and during the singing of the Magnificat, at the words 'He hath put down the mighty from their seat', he ascends the Bishop's Throne in the Quire of the Cathedral, while Bishop Richard, himself, will remain on the lower level! From the Bishop's Throne, the Boy Bishop blesses the congregation.

Later, he comes to King Stephen's chair at the Nave altar and there delivers a sermon, which he will have composed himself. All the sermons of past Boy Bishops (and I have heard 16 now!) have been excellent and each focuses on a particular aspect of the Christian faith, cathedral music and life. As you can imagine, it can be quite a challenge for a 12/13 year old to compose and deliver a sermon in front of his parents, relatives, friends and peers, not to mention the bishop and dean...!

Is it an outmoded custom? I think not! It says such important things about the vital role children can play in teaching we adults about what is important in life, about the real need for humility in leaders. And, mark my words, one day there will, rightly, be a 'Girl Bishop' and we look forward to that extension of the tradition in time!

Michael Taviner

The Rev'd Simon Tarlton | 01600 890185 | 07462 893457 | simon@rawchurch.org.uk (not Wed)

The Rev'd Canon Chris Blanchard | 01989 762368 | frchris2@icloud.com (Sun - Wed)

Intergenerational Missioner: Christine Cattanach | christine.cattanach@hereford.anglican.org

Team Administrator: Nick Richmond | 01989 562175 | administrator@rawchurch.org.uk

TODAY'S COLLECT

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the
light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

Brad Knapper, Paul Eward

WE REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE DIED AND

**WE PRAY FOR THEIR FAMILIES: Sylvia Joyce
Gibbons**

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading Jeremiah 33.14-16

14 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 15 In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 16 In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

Second Reading I Thessalonians 3.9-13

9 How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? 10 Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

11 Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. 12 And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. 13 And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Gospel Reading Luke 21.25-36

Jesus said to his disciples: 25 'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. 26 People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. 28 Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

29 Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; 30 as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. 31 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. 32 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.'

34 Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, 35 and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. 36 Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

NOTICES

Travelling Cribs - We wish the travelling cribs, with Mary and Joseph a lovely journey around the Benefice that starts this Advent Sunday. Freda Davies.

The Advent study this year is entitled : 'Come and Worship' and is based on the carol 'Angels from the realms of glory'. There will be groups on Monday evenings with Pauline Leggate and with Paul and Margaret Mason and on Tuesday evenings with Chris Blanchard. For more details telephone Chris on 01989-762368. Tuesday meeting at Walford Vicarage will be at 4.00pm, not 7.30pm on 4 December.

Advent Meditations Do join us for a short time of quiet meditation in St Mary's at 11-15 am starting on Wednesday 5th December then each Wednesday during Advent. Further details from Freda on 562366

Talking Jesus continues on Tuesday 4th December in St. Mary's Hall at 2pm. All welcome. Simon

Plans are underway for a **Deanery Youth Service** in St Mary's on 16th December. Called, The Greatest Gift, this is an opportunity to reach out to young people both in Ross and the surrounding area through worship, games, music and food. The star attraction will be local singer songwriter April Shipton who is coming to share her music and testimony. We will need helpers on the night to make sure everything goes smoothly so please do let us know if you are available. More importantly do help to pass the word on to anyone you think would be interested. Simon and Christine

Mothers Union final meeting of the year Wednesday December 5th 2:00p.m. in St. Mary's church hall. Annual subscriptions need to be paid up this month please . Thanks Margaret Willis

Toast Club Following on from the Toast Club suggestion, 'Knit & Natter' has started to form (check out St Mary's Facebook or Website for photos). We have obtained some knitting needles & wool and this week Anna came along to share with some of the mums and get them knitting. Please feel free to come along & be part of this whether to knit, crochet, or of course natter. 9-10.15am in St Mary's. Tea, Toast, Coffee and the most delightful atmosphere. Join us. Christine

Thank you to everyone who came forward, offering to join the reformed fundraising committee. I will be in touch soon with some suggestions of when we could have a first meeting. Simon

Join us for **Carol singing** this week as we gather to entertain, and celebrate with, the people of Goodrich Court. All welcome. 4pm on Tuesday 4th December. Contact Simon for more details.

Thinking Film is back. Join us for another great film and some stimulating conversation, a glass of wine and unlimited popcorn. This month we will be watching Mary Magdalene. Thursday 6th December, 7pm in St Mary's Hall. Simon

Our parishes will be remembered in **prayer at Hereford Cathedral** on Monday 3rd December at 5.30pm. I will be going to Evensong in the cathedral on Monday to represent us. Do come and join me if you have the time. Simon

Cards for the Congregation. As usual the boards will be put up in the café area for use on Sundays 9th, 16th. and 23rd. December so that cards from individuals to St. Mary's friends can be attached. We suggest that one card to us all might replace many individual cards and the money thus saved can be given to charities of personal choice. Any queries to Derek Glover.

Viv & Penny have taken over the St Mary's **Sunday coffee rota** from Sue Edwards & we would love to hear if there are any willing souls who would like to join the rota. penny.comley@btinternet.com tel 567986

Thank you to everyone who gave us such useful feedback following the All Age services in the last two months. We are working with all your suggestions to keep improving our 4th Sunday service. In December the All Age Service will be our Crib Service on Christmas Eve. The service on Sunday 23rd December will be an All Age Eucharist. We are excited that on 13th January we will be joined at our Sunday Eucharist by Dr Sandra Millar, Head of Projects & Development for the Archbishop's Council, who will be coming to preach and to share her vision of All Age Worship. Simon

On Tuesday our joint **PCC meeting** gathers to discuss the next steps in the search for our new Rector. Please pray for them as they seek to put into words the work that has been going on behind the scenes over recent weeks. Simon

SERVICES TODAY

8.00am Holy Communion - Ross

The Rev'd Canon Chris Blanchard

9.30am Sung Eucharist - Ross

The Rev'd Simon Tarlton & The Rev'd Canon Chris Blanchard

Sunday kids runs during this service

Setting: Mass of St Cedd - *Nardone*

Choir: Advent Prose v1

Introit: 45 O come, O come, Emmanuel

Psalm: 25.1-9

Grad: 38 Hark a thrilling voice is sounding

Offertory: 37 Hark, what a sound

Com: Matin Responsory - from *Palestrina*

Post Com: 41 Lo, he comes with clouds descending
Please join us for coffee after this service.

9.30am Morning Prayer - Walford

Canon Freda Davies

Hymn: 263 Hark! A herald voice is calling

Hymn: 188 Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go

Hymn: 757 Ye servants of the Lord

Hymn: 405 Lo, he comes with clouds descending

11.30am Baptism - Walford

The Rev'd Simon Tarlton

11.15am Café Church - Brampton Abbotts School

The Rev'd Prebendary Caroline Pascoe

SERVICES NEXT WEEK

Thursday 6th December

10.00am Holy Communion - Ross

Sunday 9th December

8.00am Holy Communion - Ross

9.30am Sung Eucharist - Ross

9.30am Family Service & Baptism - Walford

4.00pm Choral Evensong - Ross