



The Benefice of Ross
with Walford
and
Brampton
Abbotts

Newsletter

16th December 2018

3rd Sunday of Advent

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

rawchurch.org.uk



Are you ready yet? Have you sent your cards, wrapped your presents, got out your decorations? Do you have a family tradition related to Christmas? Perhaps you light candles in your windows throughout Advent or maybe you have an Advent Calendar with a different window to open each day until Christmas.

The church also has many traditions during the time leading up to Christmas. One is the Posada – a tradition borrowed from South America when models of Mary and Joseph are taken from house to house during Advent – have they visited you yet?

Then there are those special hymns we sing, including one of my favourites, ‘O come o come Emmanuel’, derived from the last of the O-Antiphons. One of the most ancient Roman liturgical traditions, dating back to the seventh century, is the chanting of antiphons before a canticle.

The O-Antiphons are chanted at Vespers before the Magnificat from Monday 17th December until Christmas Eve. Each antiphon takes a different image from the Hebrew Scriptures to show a longing for the coming of the Redeemer.

Perhaps the most common tradition in churches is the lighting of candles on an Advent Wreath. Differing significance is given to each candle depending on the liturgy a church uses. Here we use Common Worship, so each of the four outer candles reminds us of those who prepared for the coming of Christ. The first to be lit represents the Patriarchs: Abraham, our father in faith, and David, in whose city Jesus was born. The second represents the Prophets who foretold the coming of the Messiah. The third, which will be lit this Sunday, reminds us of John the Baptist, who urged his followers to repent and prepare themselves for the coming of the Messiah. The fourth reminds us of the Virgin Mary who gave birth to Jesus, and His birth is commemorated by the lighting of the central candle on Christmas Day.

There are so many traditions – too many to mention here – but let us remember just why we celebrate Christmas - to give thanks for the most wonderful gift God gave humanity: that of his son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Freda Davies

TODAY'S COLLECT

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way
of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these
heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

Brad Knapper, Nancy Rees

WE REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE DIED AND WE PRAY FOR THEIR FAMILIES: Sylvia Joyce Gibbons, David Nicholls

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading Zephaniah 3.14-20

14 Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
15 The LORD has taken away the judgements
against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
17 The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
18 as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

19 I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

20 At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

Second Reading Philippians 4.4-7

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say,
Rejoice. 5 Let your gentleness be known to
everyone. The Lord is near. 6 Do not worry
about anything, but in everything by prayer and
supplication with thanksgiving let your requests
be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God,
which surpasses all understanding, will guard
your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading Luke 3.7-18

7 John said to the crowds that came out to be
baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who
warned you to flee from the wrath to come?
8 Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin
to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our
ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these
stones to raise up children to Abraham.
9 Even now the axe is lying at the root of the
trees; every tree therefore that does not bear
good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'
10 And the crowds asked him, 'What then should
we do?' 11 In reply he said to them, 'Whoever
has two coats must share with anyone who has
none; and whoever has food must do likewise.'
12 Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and
they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?'
13 He said to them, 'Collect no more than the
amount prescribed for you.' 14 Soldiers also
asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said
to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by
threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with
your wages.' 15 As the people were filled with

expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16 John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

18 So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

NOTICES

The Advent study this year is entitled : 'Come and Worship' and is based on the carol 'Angels from the realms of glory'. There are 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.

Advent Meditations Do join us for a short time of quiet meditation in St Mary's at 11.15 am each Wednesday during Advent. Further details from Freda on 562366

Talking Jesus concludes on Tuesday 18th December in St. Mary's Hall at 2pm. All welcome. Simon

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

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

There will be no 9.30 am morning service in Walford on December 16th. We are instead holding our Carol Service at 4.00pm followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Gay Chinn

Christmas Flowers St Mary's will be decorated for Christmas. If anyone would like to donate money toward the cost of the flowers, please hand to either Freda, Celia or at the Church office. Many thanks Lindsay.

Epiphany Party Saturday January 5th @ 7.00pm in St Mary's Church Hall. Tickets at £ 10 from Margaret Mason.

The monthly draw for **100 Club** took place before 9,30am Service on Sunday 9 December 2018. The winners were 1st Marion Francis 2nd David Mander 3rd Annice Burchell. Pauline Waters

Dene and Paul Eward wish to thank everyone for all their kindness, prayers and cards during Paul's prolonged stay in hospital. He is home now and doing well. Praise the Lord.

Brampton Abbots Village Carol Singing Monday 17th December starts at 5.30pm at the Village Hall. All welcome ! Simon

SERVICES TODAY

8.00am Holy Communion - Ross

The Rev'd Colin Leggate

9.30am Sung Eucharist - Ross

The Rev'd Simon Tarlton and The Rev'd Colin Leggate

Sunday Kids runs during this service

Setting: Trinity Mass - *Dyke*

Choir: Advent Prose v3

Introit: 39 Hills of the north, rejoice

Canticle: Isaiah 12.2-6

Grad: 108 When Jesus came to Jordan

Offertory: 42 Longing for light

Communion: Prepare ye the way of the Lord - *Wise*

Post Com: 769 Rejoice, the Lord is King
Please join us for coffee after this service.

11.15am Village Service - Brampton Abbots School

The Rev'd Simon Tarlton

4.00pm Carol Service - Walford

The Rev'd Canon Chris Blanchard

See separate service sheet

6.00pm Deanery Youth Service - Ross

Christine Cattanach and The Rev'd Simon Tarlton
and The Rev'd Prebendary Caroline Pascoe

UPCOMING SERVICES

Thursday 20th December

10.00am Holy Communion - Ross

Sunday 23rd December

8.00am Holy Communion - Ross

9.30am All Age Eucharist - Ross

11.15am Family Service - Walford

4.00pm Festival of Nine Lessons and
Carols - Ross

Monday 24th December Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib Service - Ross

4.00pm Nativity Service - Walford

11.30pm First Eucharist of Christmas - Ross

11.30pm First Eucharist of Christmas -
Walford

Tuesday 25th December Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion - Ross

9.30am Sung Eucharist - Ross

9.30am Parish Communion - Walford