



The Benefice of Ross
with Walford
and
Brampton
Abbotts

Newsletter

23rd December 2018

4th Sunday of Advent

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

rawchurch.org.uk



At this Christmas time I ask you; have you seen a good vision recently? Have you heard a good prophecy lately? While I am on the subject, do you know the difference between a vision and a prophecy? If not, read on! A vision is a glimpse of the future: a prophecy is an invitation to a life of peace and justice with God.

Here is a commercial vision, it is good and succinct but it seems to be a mixture of aims, hopes and policies.

‘To be the most highly valued business by: the customers we serve, the communities in which we operate, our loyal and committed colleagues and of course, our shareholders.’

But here is a proper vision for you:

“Unto us a child is born”,

a vision given to Isaiah many centuries ago to give him joy and hope and guide him to begin to realise that the creator spirit of all this universe would be coming into this world as a child, innocent and defenceless. Beautiful and simple as it may be, for Isaiah it was just a vision for the future he never saw the reality.

Now here is the prophecy

“The wolf and the lamb will lie down together and a little child will lead them”

a prophecy given to that same Isaiah so he could realise that the creator spirit of all this universe was inviting his nation to a life of peace and justice with their God. So Isaiah lived his life with that aim in mind.

At the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem Isaiah’s vision became a wonderful reality for us. So what about the prophecy let us pray that we can follow Isaiah and live our lives with peace and justice as our aim.

May I wish you all a Happy Christmas.

Colin.



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TODAY'S COLLECT

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this
present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your holy
will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

Brad Knapper

**WE REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE DIED AND
WE PRAY FOR THEIR FAMILIES: Sylvia Joyce
Gibbons, Gwyn Williams, David James
Manfield**

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading Micah 5.2-5a

The LORD says to his people:

2 But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

3 Therefore he shall give them up until the
time when she who is in labour has brought
forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

4 And he shall stand and feed his flock in the
strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his
God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be

great
to the ends of the earth;
5 and he shall be the one of peace.

Second Reading Hebrews 10.5-10

5 When Christ came into the world, he said,
'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
6 in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

7 Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your
will, O God"

(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).'

8 When he said above, 'You have neither desired
nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and
burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are
offered according to the law), 9 then he added,
'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes
the first in order to establish the second. 10 And
it is by God's will that we have been sanctified
through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ
once for all.

Gospel Reading Luke 1.39-45 (46-55)

39 Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean
town in the hill country, 40 where she entered
the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41
When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child
leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with
the Holy Spirit 42 and exclaimed with a loud cry,
'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is
the fruit of your womb. 43 And why has this
happened to me, that the mother of my Lord
comes to me? 44 For as soon as I heard the
sound of your greeting, the child in my womb
leapt for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed
that there would be a fulfilment of what was
spoken to her by the Lord.'

46 And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,

47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

48 for he has looked with favour on the lowliness
of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me
blessed;

49 for the Mighty One has done great things for

me,
and holy is his name.
50 His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
51 He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of
their hearts.
52 He has brought down the powerful from
their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
53 he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
54 He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
55 according to the promise he made to our
ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

NOTICES

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

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

Congratulations to all the hardy carol singers
of Brampton Abbots whose angel voices
raised a mighty £140 on Monday evening as
they entertained the village handsomely. The
proceeds are being split between parish
mission and the village hall repairs. Rosemary
& Len

Advance notice - on Sunday 13th January at
our 9.30am service in St. Mary's we are
looking forward to welcoming The Rev'd Dr
Canon Sandra Millar as guest preacher. Sandra
is Head of Projects for the Archbishops'
Council and has done a huge amount of work
researching and bringing about changes to our
approaches to weddings, baptisms and
funerals. She travels widely throughout the
country helping people, lay and ordained,

understand the huge potential for
engagement through these 'life
events'. Simon

Thank you to everyone who responded with
an offer of help towards the reforming of the
fundraising committee. We are planning to
meet on Tuesday 8th January at 7.30pm in the
Church Hall. If you have told me that you
would like to be part of the committee or,
after thinking about it more, have now
decided membership of it would represent
the crowning glory of your life's work then
please do come along. Many thanks, Simon

Please pray for **Sam Nicholls and Amy
Homewood**, to be married in St. Mary's on
Saturday 29th December

Thank you to Walford Open the Book Team
who really blessed **TOAST Club** last week at
their Christmas special. Some of the Mums
provided crafts and cakes. In the New Year we
are hoping to expand the knit and natter part
of the Club. If you would like to help please
contact Christine.

Just Church, our 5th Sunday opportunity to
think about the justice of the world around
us, falls next on Sunday 30th December. Due
to the closeness of Christmas and New Year
festivities there will be no speaker this month
but the invitation is to come and use this brief
moment of calm in our busy season to reflect
on the year past and pray for the year ahead.
Do join us at 4pm in St Mary's on 30th
December. Simon

There are many things to look forward to and
pray about in the New Year. Beginning on
Tuesday 5th February for ten weeks we will
be running **The Alpha Course** in St. Mary's
Hall. Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the
Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different
question around faith and is designed to
create conversation. We begin with a shared
meal each week at 1pm. Everyone's welcome.
For more details speak to Christine or Simon.

Happy Christmas from all the Ministry Team. May we all know the true blessing of the Christ Child this Christmas. Colin, Christine, Freda, Caroline, Derek, Chris and Simon

UPCOMING SERVICES

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

Thursday 27th December

10.00am Holy Communion - Ross

Sunday 30th December

8.00am Holy Communion - Ross
9.30am Sung Eucharist - Ross
9.30am Morning Prayer - Walford
4.00pm Just Church - Ross

SERVICES TODAY

8.00am Holy Communion - Ross

The Rev'd Simon Tarlton

9.30am Sung Eucharist - Ross

The Rev'd Simon Tarlton

Setting: Mass of St Cedd - *Nardone*

Choir: Advent Prose v4

Introit: 32 Come, thou Redeemer of the earth

Canticle: 395 With Mary let my soul rejoice

Grad: 26 (omit 5) Advent candles

Offertory: 58 A great and mighty wonder

Communion: Angels' Carol - *Rutter*

Post Com: 41 Lo, he comes with clouds

Please join us for coffee after this service.

11.15am Family Service - Walford

The Rev'd Canon Chris Blanchard and The Rev'd
Prebendary Caroline Pascoe

Carols chosen by the congregation

4.00pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols - Ross

The Rev'd Simon Tarlton and Dr Derek Glover
See separate service sheet