



The Benefice of Ross  
with Walford  
and  
Brampton  
Abbotts

# Newsletter

13th January 2019

Baptism of Christ

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

[rawchurch.org.uk](http://rawchurch.org.uk)



When my second son was born, like many families at the time we bought a Moses basket to place him in for sleeping. I remember inviting an old friend to come and stay at that time and we had a long discussion which went on into the early morning. The next morning my wife asked me 'Where's the baby?' and I replied, 'He's in the Moses basket'. 'But where is the basket,' she asked. On checking, I realised we had left the basket with the baby on the dining room table! Fortunately he was quite alright and hadn't even woken, but the fact remained I had forgotten the baby completely.

As we move into the New Year we too are often in danger of forgetting the baby, the Christ child, who's birth is a beginning not an end. In fact this is the season of remembering the whole significance of the Incarnation. New Year's Day is not as such a Christian festival, but is part of the whole celebration of the new spiritual beginnings which are the very core of our faith, the Word made flesh. We are called to be counter cultural in living out the authentic message of Christmas, rather than trying to

make unrealistic resolutions that will be broken.

The Epiphany Season from 6 January until 2 February shows the special way the light of the Incarnation is lived out in what we now call 'Life Events'. This Sunday's festival of the Baptism of Jesus points us to our own baptism as a child of God, our new birth in Christ. Over the following weeks we share in the joy of marriage at the wedding at Cana, the anointing for ministry in the Synagogue and the Presentation in the temple on the Christian festival of light called Candlemas.

This new year journey beckons us to go deeper in our faith, to see each moment of these life events made sacred through God's indwelling. There will be opportunities this year of going further on our faith journey, including an Alpha Course which will begin next month. Let us not forget the babe of Bethlehem as we grow together as God's people in our parishes.

Chris

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## **TODAY'S COLLECT**

Heavenly Father,  
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:  
may we recognize him as our Lord  
and know ourselves to be your beloved  
children;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Lord of all time and eternity,  
you opened the heavens and revealed  
yourself as Father  
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:  
by the power of your Spirit  
complete the heavenly work of our rebirth  
through the waters of the new creation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:**

**Brad Knapper, and all suffering with seasonal  
colds and flu.**

**WE REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE DIED AND  
WE PRAY FOR THEIR FAMILIES: David James  
Manfield, Gwyn Williams, Brian Arthur  
Cooke, Donald Fraser-Jones**

## **TODAY'S READINGS**

### **First Reading Isaiah 43.1-7**

Thus says the LORD,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.  
2 When you pass through the waters, I will be  
with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not  
overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be  
burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.  
3 For I am the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.  
I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

4 Because you are precious in my sight,  
and honoured, and I love you,  
I give people in return for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.

5 Do not fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you;

6 I will say to the north, 'Give them up',  
and to the south, 'Do not withhold;  
bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth –  
7 everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made.'

### **Second Reading Acts 8.14-17**

14 When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that  
Samaria had accepted the word of God, they  
sent Peter and John to them.  
15 The two went down and prayed for them that  
they might receive the Holy Spirit  
16 (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any  
of them; they had only been baptized in the  
name of the Lord Jesus).  
17 Then Peter and John laid their hands on them,  
and they received the Holy Spirit.

### **Gospel Reading Luke 3.15-17, 21-22**

(In the wilderness John proclaimed a baptism of  
repentance.)

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.'

21 Now when all the people were baptized, and  
when Jesus also had been baptized and was  
praying, the heaven was opened,  
22 and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in

bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

## NOTICES

**Toast & Toddle** Following on from the Toast Club suggestion, 'Knit & Natter' has started to form ( check out St Mary's Facebook or Website for photos). Please feel free to come along & be part of this whether to knit, crochet, or of course natter. Wednesdays 9-10.15am in St Mary's. Tea, Toast, Coffee and the most delightful atmosphere. Please do join us. Also a reminder, if you are one of our Toast Makers we have a meeting on Thursday 17th January in the Church Hall at 12 o'clock Christine

**The Benefice profile** which will form the basis for our recruitment of a new Rector is available on the Benefice website [rawchurch.org.uk](http://rawchurch.org.uk) . Colin Leggate

**Alpha is coming soon!** Beginning on Tuesday 5th February we will be running Alpha, a series exploring the Christian faith over 10 weeks. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. No two Alphas look the same, but generally they have three key things in common: a shared meal, a talk and good conversation. Alpha begins with a sandwich lunch at 1pm on Tuesday 5th February in St. Mary's Hall. Now is the time to sign up as we will be catering for this course, so an idea of numbers would be helpful . Please let us know if you would like to join us or let Nick know, Simon and Christine

**Open Gardens 2019** will be on 15 and 16 June. Please put date in diaries, arrange for your friends & families to come and stay to join the throngs, plan to volunteer etc. Most Importantly we need a few more gardens. So far we have 16, but need 20 to 22 to be a success. Can you persuade friends, neighbours (or the owner of the nice garden round the

corner) to join in this fun community event, and help raise funds for Phase 3 of the Reordering Project? Anywhere in the Parish including Brampton Abbots! Peter Reynolds 564830.

**100 Club** The January draw took place before the 9.30am Service at St Mary's on Sunday 6 January 2019 and the winners were 1st Prize Janet Cooper 2nd Prize Clare Thomas 3rd Prize Dave Ravenscroft Thank you - Pauline Waters

**Discovering St Michael's and All Angels Brampton Abbots.** A heritage talk on the history, art and architecture of St Michael's and other churches around Ross-on-Wye. Speakers Tim Bridges and Wendy Coombey Thursday 31st January 7.30 in St Mary's Church. All welcome free admission

**The Contemplative Prayer Group** will meet at Freda's home on Wednesday 16th January at 11 am contact Freda on 562366 for details

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 18th – 25th January** Each day there will be the opportunity to meet for prayer. On Sunday 20th there will be a Bring & Share lunch at 1pm at The Venue, Hill Street (the old Y-Zone) followed by a short joint service. On the other days the following churches will be hosting a short (15min) time of prayer at noon each day.

Friday 18th	St Mary's
Saturday 19th	Quakers meeting room
Monday 21st	Christ Church
Tuesday 22nd	Ross Baptist Church
Wednesday 23rd	St Frances
Thursday 24th	New Life Church (Red House, Palmerston Road, HR9 5PJ)
Friday 25th	St Mary's

You are invited to - **Before the Face of All People, a Procession with music for Epiphany and Candlemas**, at 4pm, Sunday 27th January in St. Mary's. This special service is an opportunity, inspired by music and word, to pause and reflect upon the season that has passed and all that is to come. We promise a beautiful atmosphere, wonderful music and lots of candles.

**Supper Club** Tuesday 15th January 7.00pm at The Castle Lodge Hotel. Guest speakers Janet and Nick Nelson tell of their walk from Ross to St David's with members of the choir providing the accompaniment. Starters Tomato & Basil soup, Pork liver pate Mains Thai Red Chicken Curry, Creamy Fish pie. Alternatives available directly from the hotel on Ross 562234. Please advise me of your choices by Sunday evening - 568705 or e-mail [william@wyenet.net](mailto:william@wyenet.net) William Hazelton

**Thinking Film is back!** We resume at 7pm on Thursday 7th February with *Life Is Beautiful* (La vita è bella), a 1997 Italian comedy-drama directed by and starring Roberto Benigni. Join us in St Mary's Hall for a great film, stimulating conversation, a glass of wine and unlimited popcorn! 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 Dr Sandra Millar

**Setting:** A People's Mass - *Greening*

**Introit:** 46 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

**Psalm:** 29

**Gradual:** 109 When Jesus comes to be baptized

**Offertory:** 104 Songs of thankfulness and praise

**Communion:** Out of the stillness - *Shepherd*

**Post Com:** 332 Freed in Christ from death and sin  
Please *join us for coffee after this service.*

### 9.30am Family Service - Walford

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

**Hymn:** 521 Once in royal David's city

**Hymn:** 851 Jesus put this song into our hearts

**Hymn:** 848 Jesus is special, special to me

**Hymn:** 766 You shall go out with joy

### 4.00pm Choral Evensong - Ross

Canon Freda Davies

**Hymn:** 104 Songs of thankfulness and praise

**Responses:** *Sanders*

**Psalm:** 29

**Hymn:** 149 O love how deep, how broad, how high

**Canticles:** *Noble* in B minor

**Anthem:** Coventry Carol - 1591 version

**Hymn:** 52 The people that in darkness sat

## SERVICES NEXT WEEK

### Thursday 17th January

10.00am Holy Communion - Ross

### Sunday 20th January

8.00am Holy Communion - Ross

9.30am Sung Eucharist - Ross

9.30am Parish Communion - Walford

11.15am Village Service - Brampton Abbots School