



The Benefice of Ross
with Walford
and
Brampton
Abbotts

Newsletter

20th January 2019

3rd Sunday of Epiphany

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

rawchurch.org.uk



Sometimes it can seem hard to put into words what our faith means to us or how it changes us. I've been asked many times to explain what it is about being a Christian that shapes who I am and what I do and it can be a struggle to do so, because I am stumbling to explain something that is at work in my heart with the language of my brain.

I recently read an interview with the amazing Jackie Pullinger, who for over twenty years has worked in the poorest parts of Asia, reaching out to addicts and the left behind. Asked how she draws people to faith, she said that she now realises that at the heart of it all was showing people how much they were loved. She said, "they were watching to see how I acted, whether I really did love them. And if I really did love them, then maybe God really did love them too."

Turning to the language of the heart to communicate our faith is at the centre of two exciting new initiatives in the Benefice. The first is the establishment of an Inclusive Church Strategy Group, the aim of which is to build on our existing Inclusive Church status and to look for ways in which we can show our concern for the social issues

confronting our communities in new and innovative ways. Come and talk to me if you would like to get involved.

The second initiative is the launch of Alpha, a ten week course exploring our faith in a relaxed and sharing environment. Alpha is for everyone. Over 24 million people have tried Alpha in over 100 countries and it runs in every part of the global church. Each session consists of a shared meal, a talk and good conversation. Wherever you are on your journey Alpha has something to offer you. Archbishop Justin Welby describes Alpha as, "an expression of the work of the Holy Spirit... It's accessible, it's easy, and it's user-friendly. It's extraordinary. It's leading people into a personal relationship with Jesus and building a community that engages with the world and changes it for the better."

We will be running Alpha every Tuesday from 1pm to 3pm beginning on 5th February in St Mary's Hall. Our final session will be on 9th April. Come and join us. Talk to me or Christine in Ross and Brampton Abbots about it or to Chris in Walford. We will provide a meal each week so just bring yourselves. And an open heart. **Simon**

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

God of all mercy,
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,
release to the captives,
and freedom to the oppressed:
anoint us with your Holy Spirit
and set all your people free
to praise you in Christ our Lord.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty Father,
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light
of the world:
may your people,
illuminated by your word and sacraments,
shine with the radiance of his glory,
that he may be known, worshipped, and
obeyed
to the ends of the earth;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

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

WE REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE DIED AND WE PRAY FOR THEIR FAMILIES:

**Gwyn
Williams, Brian Arthur Cooke, Donald Fraser-
Jones, Gerald Prew**

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading Isaiah 62.1-5

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
2 The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
3 You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand
of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
4 You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed

Desolate;
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land Married;
for the LORD delights in you,
and your land shall be married.
5 For as a young man marries a young woman,
so shall your builder marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 12.1-11

Concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I
do not want you to be uninformed. 2 You know
that when you were pagans, you were enticed
and led astray to idols that could not speak. 3
Therefore I want you to understand that no one
speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus
be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord'
except by the Holy Spirit.

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same
Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of services, but
the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of
activities, but it is the same God who activates all
of them in everyone. 7 To each is given the
manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.
8 To one is given through the Spirit the utterance
of wisdom, and to another the utterance of
knowledge according to the same Spirit, 9 to
another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts
of healing by the one Spirit, 10 to another the
working of miracles, to another prophecy, to
another the discernment of spirits, to another
various kinds of tongues, to another the
interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are
activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots
to each one individually just as the Spirit
chooses.

Gospel Reading John 2.1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of
Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2
Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to
the wedding. 3 When the wine gave out, the
mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.'
4 And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is
that to you and to me? My hour has not yet

come.' 5 His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' 6 Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. 8 He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. 9 When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 10 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' 11 Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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

Prayers Please – your prayers are asked for every aspect of appointing our new Rector and similarly for the appointment of our new Bishop. As regards the Rector there is much information to help your prayers in the Benefice Profile on the website; for those who don't use a computer there are full colour copies at the back of church (Walford & Ross). As regards the Bishop, there will soon be available prayer cards and pointers to help you, watch this space. Colin.

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.

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

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. See overleaf.

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.

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

Thank you to everyone who attended the Epiphany party. We are able to send £ 220 to the Creche Bethlehem which was visited by Marilyn, Peter, Margaret and Ted on their pilgrimage to the Holy Land last year. Margaret Mason

Disposal of hassocks/kneelers. We would like to dispose of the remaining older, squarer, kneelers. We will leave them out for people to take over the next two weeks. They will be in a pile just outside the Markye chapel. If people would like to pay something for them, please leave a donation in the safe by the main door. We will keep some including all those which were given by members of the congregation in memory of friends and family. Please let me know if you gave any which you would like returned. Janet Cooper

SERVICES TODAY

8.00am Holy Communion - Ross

The Rev'd Simon Tarlton

9.30am Sung Eucharist - Ross

The Rev'd Colin Leggate and Canon Freda Davies
Sunday kids runs during this service

Setting: Trinity Mass - *Dyke*

Introit: 99 Hail to the Lord's anointed

Psalm: 19

Gradual: 344 Come to a wedding

Off: 343 As man and woman we were made

Communion: Three pieces from "Christus" - *Mendelssohn*

Post Com: 97 (394) Christ is our light
Please join us for coffee after this service.

9.30am Parish Communion - Walford

The Rev'd Canon Chris Blanchard

Hymn: 609 v1,2,3,5 Songs of thankfulness and praise

Hymn: 552 v1 O worship the Lord

Hymn: 409 Lord for the years

Hymn: 45 As the deer pants for the water

11.15am Village Service - Brampton Abbots School

The Rev'd Prebendary Caroline Pascoe and Christine Cattanach

SERVICES NEXT WEEK

Thursday 24th January

10.00am Holy Communion - Ross

Sunday 27th January

8.00am Holy Communion - Ross

9.30am All Age Worship - Ross

11.15am Family Communion - Walford

4.00pm Choral Evensong - Ross

St Mary's Phase 2 Reordering work and pew removal will commence on Monday 4th February. Pews will be removed from the north aisle/north nave first and access to church will be restricted. The new chairs are due for delivery at the same time. The work is scheduled to take 8 weeks and your patience and support will be appreciated.

John Setchfield