



The Benefice of Ross  
with Walford  
and  
Brampton  
Abbotts

# Newsletter

27th January 2019

4th Sunday of Epiphany

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

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



Every year someone or some organisation will be celebrating an anniversary or commemorating a special event, and 2019 is no exception, especially for those for whom 1969 was an eventful year – maybe more on that another time.

2019 also sees the twentieth anniversary of ‘Open the Book’ – a simple and enjoyable way to retell some of those important Bible Stories to primary school children. The project began in Bedford when a few volunteers devised a plan to provide a three year rolling programme of themed and dramatised Bible Stories which could be presented free of charge in their local primary schools.

Welcomed by the schools and loved by children and volunteers alike, other dioceses including Hereford encouraged parishes to get involved, by the time the Bible Society began to co-ordinate the project in 2013, more than 2000 schools and over 11,000 volunteers were registered across the UK. In 2010 the first Open the Book Team in this Benefice began to visit Walford School on alternate Wednesdays. Much later an ecumenical group was set up

at Ashfield Park and last year a group began at Brampton Abbots.

For me ‘Open the Book’ is much more than a project to tell Bible stories to school children – the staff, the volunteers as well as the children can learn from the project. There is also much to gain from the relationships that are built up – many of the volunteers now support the schools with other projects, school trips and so on. And what a joy it is when one is greeted by a young child in the street or supermarket with a cheery ‘Hello Mrs Open the Book!’

Volunteers are always welcomed - we are particularly short of men – so do please contact me for further information if you would like to join us.

Freda

---

**The Rev'd Simon Tarlton** | 01600 890185 | 07462 893457 | [simon@rawchurch.org.uk](mailto:simon@rawchurch.org.uk) (not Wed)  
**The Rev'd Canon Chris Blanchard** | 01989 762368 | [frchris2@icloud.com](mailto:frchris2@icloud.com) (Sun - Wed)  
**Intergenerational Missioner: Christine Cattanach** | [christine.cattanach@hereford.anglican.org](mailto:christine.cattanach@hereford.anglican.org)  
**Team Administrator: Nick Richmond** | 01989 562175 | [administrator@rawchurch.org.uk](mailto:administrator@rawchurch.org.uk)

## **TODAY'S COLLECT**

God of heaven,  
you send the gospel to the ends of the earth  
and your messengers to every nation:  
send your Holy Spirit to transform us  
by the good news of everlasting life  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Generous Lord,  
in word and eucharist we have proclaimed the  
mystery of your love:  
help us so to live out our days  
that we may be signs of your wonders in the  
world;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

## **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: Brian Arthur  
Cooke, Donald Fraser-Jones, Gerald Prew,  
Margaret Jones, Graham Lewis**

## **TODAY'S READINGS**

### **First Reading Nehemiah 8.1-3, 5-6, 8-10**

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. 2 Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. 3 He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. 6 Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the

great God and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen,' lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

8 So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

9 And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. 10 Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.'

### **Second Reading 1 Corinthians 12.12-31a**

12 Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

14 Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot would say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear would say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many members, yet one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' 22 On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and those members of the

body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; 24 whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, 25 that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. 28 And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? 31 But strive for the greater gifts.

### **Gospel Reading Luke 1.14-21**

14 Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. 15 He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. 16 When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:  
18 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'  
20 And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture

has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

## **NOTICES**

**Toast & Toddle** is going well with a few new parents and toddlers coming along already this term. This week will be our last Toast & Toddle in the church, whilst the reordering happens. We will be posting some lovely pictures on Facebook and our website I have taken of the toddlers playing on the pews. Also during Half Term we shall be having a Toast Special where older siblings will be able to join their younger brothers and sisters. More details to come. Christine

**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

**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

**Charitable giving** The PCC were very grateful to receive nominations from members of the congregation for charitable giving. I thought that I should update you that at the November meeting it was agreed that payments of £1,825 should be made to each of Church Mission Society and the St Peter's Winter Shelter in Hereford both of whom are grateful for our support and have asked me to pass on their thanks. One of the co-ordinators at the shelter advised that "...we have been busier than ever. We have occasional problems with some of our more troubled guests, but generally the shelter is going well." Peter Raddenbury

**APCM meetings in April.** Please send all reports for 2018 to Nick Richmond by the end of February so that Agenda booklets can be produced. Nick

**Coffee Morning** Sat. 2nd February 10.30-12noon in St Mary's Church Hall hosted by the Berkeley Mews Bible Study Group. The first opportunity of the new year to catch up with news over a relaxing cup of coffee or tea ! Margaret Mason

## SERVICES TODAY

### **8.00am Holy Communion - Ross**

The Rev'd Simon Tarlton

### **9.30am All Age Worship - Ross**

Christine Cattanach and The Rev'd Simon Tarlton

*See separate service sheet*

*Please join us for coffee after this service.*

### **11.15am Family Communion - Walford**

The Rev'd Canon Chris Blanchard

**Hymn:** 259 Hail to the Lord's anointed

**Hymn:** 966 Peruvian Gloria

**Hymn:** 752 Will you come and follow me

**Hymn:** 45 As the deer pants for the water

**Hymn:** 438 Make way, make way

### **4.00pm Before the Face of All People -**

A procession with music for Epiphany and Candlemas

The Rev'd Simon Tarlton, Dr Derek Glover and Canon Freda Davies

*see separate service booklet*

## SERVICES NEXT WEEK

### **Thursday 31st January**

10.00am Holy Communion - Ross

### **Sunday 3rd February**

8.00am Holy Communion - Ross

9.30am Sung Eucharist - Ross

9.30am Parish Communion - Walford

11.15am Café Church - Brampton Abbotts School

**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**