



The Benefice of Ross
with Walford
and
Brampton
Abbotts

Newsletter

6th January 2019

Epiphany

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

rawchurch.org.uk



Confusion and uncertainty are all around us in this country at the moment. There is one thing that is very clear: there is much division, conflict and unease. There is an urgent need for reconciliation in many different parts of our society.

But it's not as if the United Kingdom is the only part of the world where there is tension. A few weeks ago I was privileged to take a party of 53 – almost all from the diocese – on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

As well as visiting many of the holy sites and being encouraged and heartened by seeing many of the places associated with Jesus' ministry, we received some insights into how life is now in Israel and Palestine, given the long history of conflict between the two.

A major highlight was meeting with two men, one an Israeli Jew and the other a Palestinian Muslim, both of whom had lost young daughters, brutally killed in the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

Brought together through personal tragedy, Rami and Bassam work for an organisation called "Parents Circle – Families Forum". Its

subtitle "Israeli – Palestinian bereaved families for peace" speaks for itself.

Our meeting with Rami and Bassam was immensely moving and profoundly challenging. Personal tragedy and conflict can – understandably - lead to a desire for revenge, which in turn feeds further violence. Or it can stimulate a desire for understanding, forgiveness and reconciliation. It is this desire which motivates Rami and Bassam.

Our need for reconciliation is nothing like as dramatic, but it's real, nonetheless. I'd like to encourage you to pray the following prayer, often and from the heart:

God of reconciling hope, as you guided your people in the past, guide us through the turmoil of the present time, and bring us to that place of flourishing where our unity can be restored, the common good served, and all shall be made well.

In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Happy New Year!
Richard +

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)
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TODAY'S COLLECT

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord God,
the bright splendour whom the nations seek:
may we who with the wise men have been
drawn by your light
discern the glory of your presence in your Son,
the Word made flesh, 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**

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading Isaiah 60.1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

2 For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

3 Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

4 Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their
nurses' arms.

5 Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be
brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

6 A multitude of camels shall cover you,

the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Second Reading Ephesians 3.1-12

I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake
of you Gentiles - 2 for surely you have already
heard of the commission of God's grace that was
given me for you, 3 and how the mystery was
made known to me by revelation, as I wrote
above in a few words, 4 a reading of which will
enable you to perceive my understanding of the
mystery of Christ. 5 In former generations this
mystery was not made known to humankind, as
it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and
prophets by the Spirit: 6 that is, the Gentiles
have become fellow-heirs, members of the same
body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus
through the gospel.

7 Of this gospel I have become a servant
according to the gift of God's grace that was
given me by the working of his power. 8
Although I am the very least of all the saints, this
grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles
the news of the boundless riches of Christ, 9 and
to make everyone see what is the plan of the
mystery hidden for ages in God who created all
things; 10 so that through the church the wisdom
of God in its rich variety might now be made
known to the rulers and authorities in the
heavenly places. 11 This was in accordance with
the eternal purpose that he has carried out in
Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have
access to God in boldness and confidence
through faith in him.

Gospel Reading Matthew 2.1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in
Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East
came to Jerusalem, asking, 2 'Where is the child
who has been born king of the Jews? For we
observed his star at its rising, and have come to
pay him homage.' 3 When King Herod heard this,
he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4
and calling together all the chief priests and

scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

6 "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." 7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' 9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

NOTICES

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. Wednesday's 9-10.15am in St Mary's. Tea, Toast, Coffee and the most delightful atmosphere. Join us. Christine

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

Flicks in the Sticks - Tuesday 8th January 7.00pm in St Mary's Church Hall. Sheila

Hancock stars as **Eddie**, a woman freed from 40 years tending to a controlling husband, she embarks on the difficult ascent of Mount Suilven in Scotland to prove that 'it's never too late'

A reminder that the first meeting of the reformed **Fundraising Committee** will meet this week. On Tuesday 8th January at 7.30pm in the Church Hall. Simon

The Benefice profile which will form the basis for our recruitment of a new Rector is available on the Benefice website rawchurch.org.uk . Colin Leggate

Christmas Services - Regular members of St Mary's congregation will be delighted to know that over the Christmas period we welcomed nearly 900 souls to our services (services between the carol service and the 9.30 Christmas Day Eucharist). That is the highest number we've ever recorded, certainly in the last ten years, and continues an upward trajectory that we've seen for the last three years. Similarly, we have had more than 1100 different visitors to the Benefice website through the month of December, between them viewing 3600 pages (that's 800 more visitors than for the same period just two years ago). Here's to 2019 and to continuing that trend! You'll find more detail on church attendance, and a lot of other very exciting detail, if you take a look at what we're providing for candidates for the post of Rector at rawchurch.org.uk/vacancies. Mark Sanderson

Don't forget. At the 9.30am service at St. Mary's on 13th January we look forward to welcoming The Rev'd Dr Sandra Millar to St. Mary's as our guest preacher. Sandra is Head of Projects for the Archbishops' Council and has a wealth of experience and insight to share. Simon

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins on Friday 18th January with prayers in St. Mary's at noon. More information to follow in next week's newsletter. Simon

Alpha is coming! Beginning on Tuesday 5th February we will be running Alpha, a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is run all around the globe, and everyone's welcome. It runs in cafés, churches, universities, homes—you name it. No two Alphas look the same, but generally they have three key things in common: food, a talk and good conversation. More details will follow in the coming weeks. In the meantime make a note in your diary-

Alpha begins at 1pm on Tuesday 5th February in St. Mary's Hall for ten weeks. Simon

Sunday 27th January, 4pm, a special **Evensong for Candlemas**. Stay tuned! Simon

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.

Prayers for St Mary's. Our monthly prayers for a full church at every main service continue tomorrow, Monday 7th January at 12 noon in the Chancel. Anyone is welcome to join us for a short time of prayer for our church. Janet & Nick Nelson

SERVICES TODAY

8.00am Holy Communion - Ross

The Rev'd Simon Tarlton

9.30am Sung Eucharist - Ross

The Rev'd Simon Tarlton and Dr. Derek Glover
Sunday kids runs during this service

Setting: Mass of St Cedd - *Nardone*

Introit: 96 Brightest and best

Psalm: 72.10-15

Gradual: 74 Like a candle flame

Offertory: 105 We three kings of Orient are

Communion: Epiphany - *Chilcott*

Post Com: 103 O worship the Lord

Please join us for coffee after this service.

9.30am Parish Communion - Walford

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

Entry: 152 Earth has many a noble city

Gospel: 552 O Worship the Lord

Gloria: 966 Peruvian Gloria

Offertory: 49 As with gladness men of old

Post Com: 85 Brightest and best

11.15am Café Church - Brampton Abbots School

The Rev'd Simon Tarlton

SERVICES NEXT WEEK

Thursday 10th January

10.00am Holy Communion - Ross

Sunday 13th January

8.00am Holy Communion - Ross

9.30am Sung Eucharist - Ross

9.30am Family Service - Walford

4.00pm Choral Evensong - Ross