



The Benefice of Ross  
with Walford  
and  
Brampton  
Abbotts

# Newsletter

17th March 2019

2nd Sunday of Lent

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

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



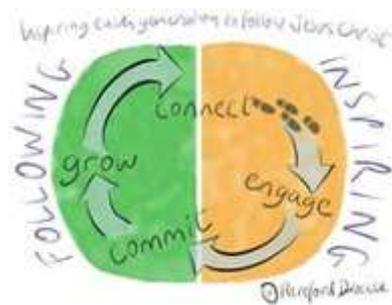
The Local Ministry Development Group or LMDG is a mystery for many of you. This cross-Benefice group works to build new initiatives in Ministry. Past achievements include the Baptism & Wedding preparation programmes and the Walford Family Service success story, where many families attend regularly.

Since the arrival of Christine, our focus has been on building the stepping stones within the Mission Development diagram (opposite). Research has shown that people generally grow in faith not through a blinding flash, but rather by taking small steps along a pathway. Our aim is to build stepping stones to make that journey easier.

For newcomers, first we must connect with them (eg Toast or wedding preparation) then engage and help to commit. For existing members, already committed, Talking Jesus and Alpha are stepping stones on their pathway.

Improving communication externally (Facebook, the website, future Gazette

articles) and internally (this newsletter) are also important stepping stones Existing members of the Congregations have a part to play in these processes. A non churchgoer has made the difficult decision to try a service.



The welcoming team play their part outside the door – and concentrate on strangers. The sidespeople hand out books with a smile, but other members of the congregation can and should invite newcomers to sit with them, help them follow the service, if needed and invite (or drag!) them to coffee afterwards.

We are all stepping stones – please help our growth by playing your part.

Peter Reynolds

## **TODAY'S COLLECT**

Almighty God,  
by the prayer and discipline of Lent  
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's  
sufferings,  
and by following in his Way  
come to share in his glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Almighty God,  
you see that we have no power of ourselves  
to help ourselves:  
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,  
and inwardly in our souls;  
that we may be defended from all adversities  
which may happen to the body,  
and from all evil thoughts which may assault  
and hurt the soul;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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

**Vera Foster, Terry Carter**

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

## **TODAY'S READINGS**

### **First Reading Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18**

The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' 2 But Abram said, 'O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' 3 And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' 4 But the word of the LORD came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' 5 He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' 6 And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

7 Then he said to him, 'I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.' 8 But he said, 'O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' 9 He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' 10 He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. 11 And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

12 As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

17 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. 18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.'

### **Second Reading Phillipians 3.17-4.1**

17 Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. 18 For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. 19 Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. 21 He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. 1 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

### **Gospel Reading Luke 13.31-35**

31 At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' 32 He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out

demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. 33 Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem.” 34 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! 35 See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.””..

## NOTICES

**Toast & Toddle continues** in the Church Hall from 8.45 to 10.15am on Wednesdays.  
Christine

**St Marys phase 2 reordering work** commenced on 4th February on an 8 week schedule . Work is proceeding to plan and access to the church will be restricted at times. Seating for Sunday services will continue to be somewhat fluid until the flooring is completed and your patience and support is greatly appreciated. **John Setchfield**

**Grab a pew from St Mary's** – it's your last chance. Anything that doesn't have a white label on it is still up for grabs, all the complete ones are gone so you'll need a pair with the correct ends. £150 for the pair – please email [mark@rawchurch.org.uk](mailto:mark@rawchurch.org.uk) **If you have bought one please collect as soon as possible.**  
Mark Sanderson

**St Mary's Electoral Roll** There is still time for members on the previous Electoral Roll or for new applicants to be included on the new Roll that will be published in mid-March. Forms are available in Church but these may be difficult to locate whilst the current works are progressing. In case of difficulty, please ring me on 01989 218295. Peter Raddenbury

**Flower Rota** I am compiling the Flower Rota for St Mary's and would be delighted to hear from anyone who would either like to provide and arrange their own flowers or who would prefer to make a donation towards the flowers in church. Thank you Freda Davies (Tel 562366)

It was 25 years ago this May that the first women priests were ordained in Hereford. To mark this anniversary, and to celebrate the fact that for 25 years men and women have ministered alongside each other as priests in our diocese, there will be a **celebration Eucharist** in the cathedral at 3.00 pm on Saturday 11th May. The preacher will be John Saxbee, former bishop of Ludlow. This will be followed by tea and cake in the hall at the Bishop's Palace. The cathedral choir isn't available that day and so there are plans to form a choir for the service under the direction of Kay Garlick. There will be more publicity coming out from the diocesan office soon but, in the meantime –

- If you'd like to sing in the choir, please contact Kay at [kaygarlick@hotmail.com](mailto:kaygarlick@hotmail.com)
- Put the date in your diary
- If you have any photographs of men and women ministering together please let me know. Simon

**Lent Lunches** - will be available on Wednesdays during Lent from midday until 1.30pm in St Mary's Church Hall. There will be a choice of delicious homemade soups with bread and tea or coffee. The idea of a Lent Lunch, or as they are sometimes known, a Hunger Lunch, is that the money we would normally spend on lunch is given to those in need. It is part of our observance of Lent and whilst we don't charge for the lunch we do ask that you donate generously. Margaret Mason

## 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:** Trinity Mass - *Dyke*

**Choir Introit:** A Lent Prose v3

**Introit:** 281 Tis good, Lord, to be here

**Psalm:** 27

**Grad:** 603 Bright the vision that delighted

**Off:** 42 Longing for light, we wait in darkness

**Communion:** Be thou my vision - *Chilcott*

**Post Com:** 683 Jerusalem the golden  
Please *join us for coffee after this service.*

### **9.30am Parish Communion - Walford**

The Rev'd Canon Chris Blanchard

**Hymn:**

**Hymn:**

**Hymn:**

**Hymn:**

### **11.15am Village Service - Brampton Abbots School**

The Rev'd Prebendary Caroline Pascoe

### **11.30am Baptism - Ross**

The Rev'd Simon Tarlton

### **11.30am Baptism - Walford**

The Rev'd Canon Chris Blanchard

## SERVICES NEXT WEEK

### **Thursday 21st March**

10.00am Holy Communion - Ross

### **Sunday 24th March**

8.00am Holy Communion - Ross

9.30am Sung Eucharist - Ross

11.15am Family Communion - Walford

6.30pm Choral Evensong - Ross