



The Benefice of Ross  
with Walford  
and  
Brampton  
Abbotts

# Newsletter

7th April 2019

5th Sunday of Lent

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

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



The comedian Jeremy Hardy died last month. His obituary noted that he came from a Church of England family. Jeremy Hardy himself wrote, "You can't exactly lapse when you're C of E. You don't lose your faith; you just can't remember where you left it."

Not the most flattering comment on the Church of England, or on any other church for that matter. But I don't react entirely negatively to it.

"You can't exactly lapse when you're C of E. You don't lose your faith; you just can't remember where you left it."

For a start, that's a reminder not to take ourselves too seriously and that's always a good thing.

And then there are hints of the church just being there – both the building and the community focused on the building – a presence for everyone. The sort of setting where people can feel welcome when they just turn up; where they are not going to be judged for not having enough faith, or any faith at all; where it's actually OK for people to be in church for whatever reason.

I believe it's vital that churches are unconditionally welcoming to all.

But that's emphatically not all there is to it. All the openness, all the welcome in the world is meaningless if it does not point beyond itself to the reality of God, who has made himself known in Jesus.

"..... Christ died for our sins," wrote St Paul, "..... he was buried, he was raised on the 3rd day ..... and he appeared to many." "If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith ..... If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins."

So, if, like Jeremy Hardy, you can't remember where you left your faith, or if you know others who have also forgotten, allow the events of Holy week, Good Friday and Easter to remind you.

+Richard

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## **TODAY'S COLLECT**

Gracious Father,  
you gave up your Son  
out of love for the world:  
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,  
that we may know eternal peace  
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you have taught us  
that what we do for the least of our brothers  
and sisters  
we do also for you:  
give us the will to be the servant of others  
as you were the servant of all,  
and gave up your life and died for us,  
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

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

**Terry Carter, John Cripwell and David Bowen**

## **WE REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE DIED AND**

## **WE PRAY FOR THEIR FAMILIES:**

**Audrey Mackay, Barbara Grainger,  
David Mander, Brian Jeal**

## **TODAY'S READINGS**

### **First Reading Isaiah 43.16-21**

16 Thus says the LORD,  
who makes a way in the sea,  
a path in the mighty waters,  
17 who brings out chariot and horse,  
army and warrior;  
they lie down, they cannot rise,  
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:  
18 Do not remember the former things,  
or consider the things of old.  
19 I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.  
20 The wild animals will honour me,  
the jackals and the ostriches;  
for I give water in the wilderness,

rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to my chosen people,  
21 the people whom I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.

### **Second Reading Philippians 3.4b-14**

4 If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

7 Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. 8 More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, 9 not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, 11 if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

### **Gospel Reading John 12.1-8**

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 2 There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. 3 Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the

perfume. 4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 5 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' 6 (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) 7 Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. 8 You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

## **NOTICES**

### **Annual Parochial Church Meetings::**

#### **St Michaels and All Angels Walford**

The Vestry Meeting and APCM for St Michaels and All Angels Walford will be held on Monday 8 April at 7.30pm in Walford Church. All are welcome.

Many Thanks, Sanna Drummond.

#### **St Michael's, Brampton Abbots**

APCM meeting takes place 23 April, 7.30pm at Oak House Nursery.

### **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).

### **Easter Flowers**

The church will be decorated with lilies at Easter. If anyone would like to contribute towards their cost, please hand monies to either Freda Davies, Celia Glover or the church office. Thank you. Lindsay Ray.

**Lent Lunches** continue to be available on Wednesdays during Lent from midday until 1.30pm in St Mary's Church Hall. With 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 while we don't charge for the lunch we do ask that you donate generously. Margaret Mason.

**Palm Sunday Bring and Share Lunch and Pilgrim Walk.** There will be two walks, the actual and the virtual. For those who want to walk, at about 11.30am we will set out towards Abacus Nursery and return via the Bowling Club; stopping to pray at various places for our schools, planet, security, life etc. For those who don't want to walk but stay in the hall there will be a map and photos of the stopping points and on the big screen a video link to the walkers so everyone can see the stopping points, join in the prayers and be fully part of the experience. We will all then have a "bring & share" lunch together. Please come and join us for the walk, or the virtual walk or just for lunch. Everyone is welcome. See Colin for more details.

**Easter Walks.** This Easter join us for a walk of witness through our Benefice. On Monday 15 and Tuesday 16 April we will be walking, first from Brampton Abbots to Ross and then from Ross to Walford. Armed only with a simple wooden cross we will be stepping out in faith and being bold to show our community something of the faith we share. We set off each evening at 5.30pm and there will be a short service at the end of each walk to give thanks for the footsteps and for what God is leading us towards. Simon

### **Lent House Groups, Future Calling**

Meet on Monday evenings at 7.30pm in Ross and Tuesday evenings 7.30pm in Walford. All welcome please contact Chris on 762368 for more details.

**Toast & Toddle Easter Special** will be on Good Friday 19 April from 10am-12 noon in St Mary's Church. We welcome toddlers and their older siblings for Easter fun and games. Contact Christine if you would like to help

## Christian Aid Week 2019, 12-18 May

A few more volunteers to join our loyal group of collectors would be most welcome. Please contact Jean Harrison (01989 567242)

**Come and Sing** Our next Come and Sing event will be a chance to participate in Fauré's wonderful Requiem on Palm Sunday 14 April. Rehearsals begin at 4pm with the service at 6.30pm. Tea and music provided. Book your place at [stmarysmusic.org](http://stmarysmusic.org)

## 100 Club

The monthly 100 Club draw took place before the 9.30am Mothering Sunday All-Age Service on 31 March 2019 and the winners were: 1st Melanie Mellor, 2nd Val Allen, 3rd, Ginny Brain.

## Open Gardens date change

For complex reasons, the date of Open Gardens 2019 has changed to Sat 22 & Sun 23 June. With 19 gardens, we will need lots of volunteers (and visitors) to support the event. We would be very grateful if you could block the weekend out in your diaries, deleting the old date 15/16 June. Peter Reynolds for Friends of St Mary's.

I am sure many of you will be saddened to hear that **David Mander** died during the night of Sunday 31st March. After a typically spirited battle he passed quietly and peacefully. David's funeral will be a private, family only service. However, there will be a service of celebration of David's long and inexhaustibly good life on Friday 12th April at 1pm in St Mary's to which all who knew and loved him are most welcome. Simon

**Baby Socks** A few people have suggested we might do something with the baby socks from last week's All Age Service with Sandra Millar. If you would like to return them to the box on the Welcome Table or to the Office, we have found a charity that will be able to use them, Christine

## SERVICES TODAY

### 8.00am Holy Communion - Ross

The Rev'd Colin Leggate

### 9.30am Sung Eucharist - Ross

The Rev'd Simon Tarlton and Dr. Derek Glover

**Setting:** Trinity Mass - *Dyke*

**Choir Introit:** A Lent Prose v5

**Introit:** 707 Lift high the cross

**Psalm:** 126

**Grad:** 157 When I survey the wondrous cross

**Offertory:** 144 How deep the Father's love for us

**Communion:** It is a thing most wonderful - *Chilcott* (from St John Passion)

**Post Com:** 806 There's a wideness in God's mercy  
Please *join us for coffee after this service.*

### 9.30am Parish Communion - Walford

The Rev'd Canon Chris Blanchard

**Hymn:** 88 Brother sister, let me serve you

**Hymn:** 412 v5 Lord Jesus think on me

**Hymn:** 622 Sweet sacrament divine

**Hymn:** 409 Lord, for the years

### 11.15am Café Church - Brampton Abbotts School

The Rev'd Prebendary Caroline Pascoe

## SERVICES NEXT WEEK

### Thursday 11th April

10.00am Holy Communion - Ross

### Sunday 14th April - Palm Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion - Ross

9.30am Sung Eucharist - Ross

9.30am Family Service - Walford

6.30pm Come & Sing Choral Evensong - Ross

**Pet Service.** Join us on Sunday 28th April at 3pm for something new - a chance to gather with our four (and maybe two) legged furred and feathered friends to give thanks for all they mean to us. Bring yourselves, your family and friends and especially your dogs, cats, chickens, anything - even lambs - all of those special animals in your lives that give so much pleasure. Simon