



The Benefice of Ross with Walford and Brampton Abbotts

Newsletter

9th June 2019

Pentecost

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

rawchurch.org.uk



1969 was quite a momentous year for several members of the congregation at St Mary's – at least eight couples were married that year, and they will be joining others on July 7th at a service to celebrate marriage.

But I have been investigating what else was happening in 1969 - Prince Charles was invested as Prince of Wales, Richard Nixon became president of the United States and spent much of the year negotiating toward peace in Vietnam, Concorde made its first test flight in Bristol and the Boeing 747 made its first commercial flight, Robin Knox-Johnson became the first man to sail single-handed around the world and Neil Armstrong took those small steps for man as he walked on the moon.

With all this going on, a momentous event for the Church might well have been overlooked: the decision to license women to serve as Readers (Licensed Lay Ministers). On May 7th 1969, Canon E4 (pertaining to Readers) was revised, and in October, Rosamund Essex was licensed as a Reader in St Albans Diocese. At last the barricades were beginning to fall. This was a significant step forward because, as Readers, women could be called, trained and authorised to preach, teach and lead worship

as well as doing pastoral work, now fifty years on almost half of all licensed readers are women. Sadly, it would be another twenty-five years before the first women were ordained. The church moves slowly – I wonder how long will it be before we have a woman Archbishop?

This Sunday, we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost when we recall the fulfilment of Jesus' promise that the disciples would be empowered by the Holy Spirit to continue the work he had begun. That work continues, and as Christians, every one of us, both lay and ordained, is called to use our God-given gifts and talents to further God's kingdom in the world. The promise of Pentecost is that we are not alone in this task, but wonderfully supported, as Jesus promised: 'I am with you, always, to the end of the age. (Matthew:28:20).

Freda

TODAY'S COLLECT

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,
ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,
revive your Church with the breath of love,
and renew the face of the earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Faithful God,
who fulfilled the promises of Easter
by sending us your Holy Spirit
and opening to every race and nation
the way of life eternal:
open our lips by your Spirit,
that every tongue may tell of your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

Terry Carter, John Cripwell & Audrey Jandrell

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading Genesis 11.1-9

Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. 2 And as they migrated from the east, they came upon a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. 3 And they said to one another, 'Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.' And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. 4 Then they said, 'Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.' 5 The LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which mortals had built. 6 And the LORD said, 'Look, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. 7 Come, let us go down, and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand one another's speech.' 8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. 9 Therefore it was called

Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

Second Reading Acts 2.1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. 5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. 6 And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. 7 Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs – in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' 12 All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' 13 But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.' 14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. 15 Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. 16 No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: 17 "In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. 18 Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will

pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. 19 And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. 20 The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. 21 Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Gospel Reading John 14.8 - 27

8 Philip said to Jesus, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' 9 Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. 12 Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it. 15 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. 17 This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. 18 'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. 19 In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.' 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, 'Lord, how is it that you will reveal

yourself to us, and not to the world?' 23 Jesus answered him, 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. 24 Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me. 25 'I have said these things to you while I am still with you. 26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.'

NOTICES

Open Gardens Volunteers - 22/23 June A list for volunteering is at the back of the church. We would be grateful for any help you can offer. There are 2 slots daily of 2hr 45 Mins. Questions? – talk to Peter Reynolds.

Whispering across Centuries - During 2018 a number of individuals and groups were invited to visit St. Michael and All Angels Brampton Abbotts, to produce a personal artistic response to the Norman church, its conservation and its planned re-opening. Their work, at present in the cathedral, will be exhibited in St Mary's from 8 to 29 June. Do come to see it. For further information please contact John Sherahilo at: jsherahilo@googlemail.com.

Celebration of Marriage - A service to celebrate marriage will be held at St Mary's on Sunday 7th July at 4 pm. Do please come and join us. We are close to reaching our original target of a total of 1000 as we add up the number of years people have been married, please contact me if you would like to be added to the list, thank you. Freda.

Contemplative Prayer Group - will meet at Freda's home on Wednesday 19th June at 11 am, do join us for this short time of quiet prayer. Further details from Freda on Ross 562366.

Big Church Survey - Our Benefice is a 'pilot' church for this Church of England led survey of your feelings about your faith and your church. The survey is completely anonymous and we are hoping that 80 or more parishioners will complete the survey on line or on paper. To complete online go to www.bigchurchsurvey.org click on "The survey" then "complete your survey on line". The first page asks you for a Church ID - for St Mary's & Brampton enter 34145, For Walford 30503 – Now click NEXT and start answering the thought provoking questions. No computer? - use a paper copy - they are on the greeting desk at back of church – complete the survey and post in the box on the same table. I am the St Mary's 'Champion' and will enter your data later – but I won't know who you are. We have 3 weeks to complete the survey (ie by 16 June), but please do it this weekend. Call Peter Reynolds on 564830/ peter@fosmross.org.uk for queries and feedback on the survey process.

Bishop Richard is coming to St. Mary's Ross at 9.30am on Sunday 22nd September for a Service of Confirmation. This will be a United Service for the Benefice, so that we can all come from our parishes to support the candidates. Anyone who would like to be confirmed is asked to contact Chris or Simon for further information.

Christian Aid - Many thanks to all our house to house collectors who raised an impressive £1182.74 for the work of providing health centres in deprived Sierra Leone. The total for the whole of the Ross area has not yet been finalised, but it had reached £5,000 at the first count. Jean Harrison

A reminder - to those who regularly help as Toast Makers at Toast & Toddle and to anyone who might to get involved with our Toast Extra sessions over the summer holidays which will be on a Friday morning 10-12 and open to older siblings. We have a meeting this Wednesday at 10.30 in St Mary's. Christine

SERVICES TODAY

8.00am Holy Communion - Ross

The Rev'd Chris Blanchard

9.30am Sung Eucharist - Ross

The Rev'd Prebendary Caroline Pascoe & Dr Derek Glover

Setting: A People's Mass - *Greening*

Introit: 246 Holy Spirit, come confirm us

Psalm: 48

Grad: 258 O thou who camest from above

Offertory: 259 She sits like a bird

Communion: Come down O love divine - *Harris*

Post Com: 234 All together in one place

Please join us for coffee after this service.

9.30am Family Communion - Walford

The Rev'd Christopher Blanchard and Christine Cattanach

666 The Spirit lives

966 Peruvian 'Gloria'

419 Shine Jesus shine

231 God's Spirit is in my heart

6.00pm Choral Evensong - Ross

Freda Davies

Hymn: 238 Come down, O love divine

Responses: *Oxley*

Psalm: 98

Hymn: 236 Breathe on me breath of God

Canticles: *Stanford* in B flat

Anthem: If ye love me - *Tallis*

Hymn: 721 Love divine

SERVICES NEXT WEEK

Thursday 13th June

10.00am Holy Communion - Ross

Sunday 16th June

8.00am Holy Communion - Ross

9.30am Sung Eucharist - Ross

9.30am Parish Communion - Walford

11.15am Village Service - Brampton Abbotts School