



The Benefice of Ross with Walford and Brampton Abbotts

Newsletter

19th July 2020

Sixth Sunday after Trinity

We offer a warm welcome to everyone at our services today, in person and virtually.

Inspiring faith, hope and love

rawchurch.org.uk



A recent inspiring sermon I heard on seafaring, reminded me to reflect on the term 'lifeline'. It is a word I have heard consistently in the challenging season we find ourselves emerging from.

Firstly, from Mums at Toast. It has not been easy to recreate a toddler group into Zoom but with the dedication, perseverance and creativity of the Toast Making team, we have been able to offer some fun and laughter every week. The lifeline it seems has been reciprocal, blessing both the Toast Makers and the now virtual Toast Eaters. Numbers have not been as high as we would have liked, but the quality of relationships and teamwork has been increased as we have adapted and grown together.

It has been said that we have all grown in terms of our ability to utilise technology. As the mother of two teenagers, we could say Wi-Fi itself may seem like lifeline to them. In fact we have found our young people crave real life time with friends they have not been able to see for many weeks, the social distanced walk or birthday celebration 2m apart in someone's garden has been the lifeline for them.

On line services, phone calls, emails and letters have been a lifeline for many church congregations. Interestingly, research indicates that those outside the church have turned more to prayer as their lifeline. Our Psalm 139 today is a favourite of many as it reminds us how God knows us so well. In prayer we can find such reassurance whatever our preferred style may be. Franciscan Sister Ilia Delio writes, 'Prayer is the way to life because in prayer we are invited to change and to grow in love' which is surely an encouraging reason to persevere or to try it for the first time. It has been my great delight to create some videos about different ways we can encourage children to pray with my nephew, who has been an enthusiastic and willing Director of Prayer. We recently completed one on silence. Silence has certainly been a lifeline to me in this time. That ability to quieten our spirits and receive the peace that surpasses our understanding is available to us all the time...what a tremendous lifeline that is. I wonder what your lifeline has been?

Christine

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Today's Collect

Creator God,
you made us all in your image:
may we discern you in all that we see,
and serve you in all that we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion Prayer

God of our pilgrimage,
you have led us to the living water:
refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

We pray for those who are ill

All those infected and affected by the coronavirus

We remember those who have died

Ann Purvis and John Edwards and we
pray for their families and loved ones,
and for all those who mourn at this time.

Today's Readings

First Reading Wisdom of Solomon 12.13,16-19

13 There is not any god besides you, whose care is for all people, to whom you should prove that you have not judged unjustly; 16 For your strength is the source of righteousness, and your sovereignty over all causes you to spare all. 17 For you show your strength when people doubt the completeness of your power, and you rebuke any insolence among those who know it. 18 Although you are sovereign in strength, you judge with mildness, and with great forbearance you govern us; for you have

power to act whenever you choose. 19 Through such works you have taught your people that the righteous must be kind, and you have filled your children with good hope, because you give repentance for sins.

Second Reading Romans 8.12-25

12 Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh – 13 for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. 15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' 16 it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ – if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. 18 I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; 20 for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; 23 and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

**Gospel Reading Matthew 13.24-30,
36-43**

24 Jesus put before the crowd another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; 25 but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. 26 So when the plants came up and bore grain then the weeds appeared as well. 27 And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" 28 He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" 29 But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. 30 Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" 36 Then Jesus left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.' 37 He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; 38 the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. 40 Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, 42 and they will throw them into the furnace of

fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!'

This Week and Beyond

Organ Recital by Laurence John - The Friends of St Mary's is organising another recital by Laurence. This will be virtual, streamed on the internet with helpful camera work. Saturday 25th July at 7.30. You can book your virtual seat and make programme requests at <https://fosmross.org.uk/laurence> There is no charge for this event but we will be invite donations on the night.

Services in August- we are proposing to restart the 8am Eucharist on a Sunday morning. Please contact the office if you intend to come. Thank you.

Sean will be on leave from 18th July until 8th August. Please contact Colin 564536 or Freda 562366 during this time.

Morning Prayer this week

Morning prayer continues by Zoom again this week, at 9am each weekday. Follow the link from our benefice website to join in. You will also find the order of service which you can use to pray Morning Prayer at home, or with us via Zoom.

<https://rawchurch.org.uk/morning-prayer/>

Gospel readings through this week

Download an info sheet on reading, reflecting and praying with the gospel reading set for each day from our website. (See link below)

Mon: Matthew 12.38-42

Tues: Matthew 12.46-end

Weds: John 20.1-2, 11-18

Thurs: Matthew 13.10-17

Fri: Matthew 13.18-23

Sat: Matthew 20.20-28

Sun: Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52

<https://rawchurch.org.uk/faith-at-home/>

Our Service Today

**9.30am Ross and Archenfield Deanery
Eucharist Celebration held in St Mary's**

This service will be livestreamed:

rawchurch.org.uk/digital-services

**10.45am Walford All Age - held online via
Zoom** (please contact Chris or Caroline if you
which to join)

Please take note of the following if you are attending the service in St Mary's: Please enter the church by the South Porch as our normal entrance (the North Porch) is currently being reordered. There will be hand sanitiser available as you enter the church, and we ask you to sanitise your hands before being seated. Face masks will also be available should you want to use one. Please sit socially distanced. We cannot hand out orders of service. Please print out the service that can be found on our website <https://rossparishes.uk/2020/06/30/church-this-week/> Alternatively, if you have a smartphone or tablet please bring your device to church and you will be able to scan a QR code to see the order of service on your device. (You will need to have previously downloaded a QR reader app). Due to concerns about multiple people using the lectern, we will need to cut back on people sharing in the leading of worship. We must not shake hands or hug, and so there will be no Sharing of The Peace. Sadly, the choir cannot lead our worship and we cannot sing hymns at this time. Please bring your own hand sanitiser to church to sanitise your hands at the time of communion. We will line up 2m apart and queue to receive communion in one kind (the host) from the priest in front of the nave altar. We cannot kneel or use the altar rail at this time. The service will be livestreamed via our website.