



The Benefice of Ross  
with Walford  
and  
Brampton  
Abbotts

# Newsletter

5th July 2020

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



I've lost count of the number of times politicians have told bishops to keep their noses out of politics. We are meant to be concerned about spiritual matters, but we should leave the business of government and politics to trained professionals. I'm not sure what they would have said to Jesus. He often spoke about matters to do with money and justice that would appear to be firmly in the political realm. In fact, all of the Bible writers, particularly the prophets, saw our spiritual lives as integral to our political and economic ones.

In Isaiah's day there was a spiritual revival with very intense worship and fasting going on in the Temple. Unfortunately, it seemed to have had no effect on the way people behaved, leading him to make the pronouncement, "Is this not the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free.

Someone once said worship without justice is self-indulgence. If worship doesn't make us more concerned about the unjust structures of society or determined to exercise better stewardship of the earth, it's probably not the sort of worship the bible envisages.

To truly worship is to tune our hearts to God's heart. If our hearts are tuned to his, they will beat to the same rhythm. God doesn't measure people's worth by the colour of their skin, the size of their bank balance, their educational attainment or their social status. The basis for justice is that we are all created in the image of God, and that creative diversity of colour and culture is a crucial part of the way God reveals himself to us. The basis for humility is that we have all fallen short and all alike need God's forgiving love.

Our problem is we get so used to being beneficiaries in the dynamics of power that we can't even see there's a problem. It's hardly surprising that our BAME brothers and sisters call our commitment to representative leadership into question when frankly, most of our senior church leaders look like me. There is a long way to go in achieving genuine justice in our society, and we need to be part of both the conversation and by our actions the solution as well.

+Richard

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## Today's Collect

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Gracious Father,  
by the obedience of Jesus  
you brought salvation to our wayward world:  
draw us into harmony with your will,  
that we may find all things restored in him,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

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## Pastoral Care and Funerals

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**At this time our Rector, Sean, will be the only priest in Ross, Walford and Brampton Abbots who will be able to minister to the dying and conduct funerals. If there are any pastoral emergencies please contact Sean.**

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## We pray for those who are ill

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Ann Purvis and all those infected and affected by the coronavirus

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## We remember those who have died

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Gerald Williams and we pray for his family and loved ones, and for all those who mourn at this time.

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## Today's Readings

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### First Reading Genesis 24.34-38, 42-49, 58-67

The servant whom Abraham had sent said to Laban: 34 'I am Abraham's servant. 35 The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. 36 And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. 37 My master made me swear, saying, "You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; 38 but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son." 42 I came today to the spring, and said, "O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I

am going! 43 I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, 'Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,' 44 and who will say to me, 'Drink, and I will draw for your camels also' – let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son." 45 Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, "Please let me drink." 46 She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, "Drink, and I will also water your camels." So I drank, and she also watered the camels. 47 Then I asked her, "Whose daughter are you?" She said, "The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him." So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. 48 Then I bowed my head and worshipped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. 49 Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.' 58 And they called Rebekah, and said to her, 'Will you go with this man?' She said, 'I will.' 59 So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. 60 And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, 'May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes.' 61 Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. 62 Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. 63 Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. 64 And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, 65 and said to the servant, 'Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?' The servant said, 'It is my master.' So she took her

veil and covered herself. 66 And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. 67 Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

### **Second Reading Romans 7.15-25a**

15 I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. 16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. 17 But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. 20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. 21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. 22 For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, 23 but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

### **Gospel Reading Matthew 11.16-19, 25-30**

At that time Jesus said, 16 'To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another, 17 "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn." 18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon"; 19 the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds. 25 I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and

have revealed them to infants; 26 yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. 27 All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. 28 Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

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### *This Week and Beyond*

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**St Mary's Cleaning** - The immediate problem of cleaning the church now that it is open for private prayer has been solved, but we need to look ahead to the time when we can return to something like a normal pattern of services and other events. We shall need to revert to regular cleaning for which we shall have to reconstitute a cleaning team. Otherwise we shall have to raise extra money to pay for professional cleaning - there is not enough money in the current (deficit) budget for it. It takes a group of 4 – 5 people 1 to 1 ½ hours to clean the church, including the kitchen area and the toilets. That is quite a commitment every week, but if, for instance, we could get a team of 20, each person would need to clean only about once every four weeks. It's not all unremitting slog – there's time to chat both with other cleaners and with visitors! If we decide to go for professional cleaning, we would have to pay for 5 hours a week at at least £10 an hour. (We have an estimate from a local firm for just over £80 a week including equipment, cleaning materials and VAT.) Please get in touch with me if you feel you can help, or have any other ideas for solving the problem. Tel. 769266. [janetcooper272@btinternet.com](mailto:janetcooper272@btinternet.com); Janet

**Ross Remembers** is a new website (<https://rossremembers.org>) where you can remember a loved one who has died. All you need to do that, is a photograph (or more) and a short piece of text about the person. There is the option to add prayers and poetry, anything really that you think is relevant. All is explained on the site. The site is free to use and you can include anyone there who has died for any reason. It is open to people of any faith and none.

**Our curate, Mrs Tiffany Jackson, will begin her curacy on Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2020** when licensing by the Bishop of Hereford, the Rt Rev Richard Jackson at Hereford Cathedral. Her licencing enables her to begin her ministry among us, as ordinations have been delayed until September due to the coronavirus pandemic. You can follow this service online: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLTSgnOA5pKtIUrxXBLTiw?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLTSgnOA5pKtIUrxXBLTiw?view_as=subscriber)

or

<https://www.facebook.com/HerefordDiocese/?ref=bookmarks>

We welcome Tiffany, her husband Stephen, and their son Liam with joy, and pray that her curacy will be a blessing to her and to us.

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### ***Morning Prayer this week***

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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/>

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### ***Our Service Today***

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**We have a service in St Mary's today at 9.30am. This service will be livestreamed:** [rawchurch.org.uk/digital-services](http://rawchurch.org.uk/digital-services)

**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. The Chancel door will also be open should some prefer to enter by this door.

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 is attached to this email or 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. Week by week these restrictions are likely to change, and so we recommend that you consult our website regularly, and we will do all we can to keep you informed.