This week in the Ross Parishes:

**Everyday:** 9am Morning Prayer - rossparishes.uk/morning-prayer

**Monday 26th April**
7.30pm Bible Study

**Tuesday 27th April**
2.30pm Just B bereavement support group in St Mary's

**Wednesday 28th April**
3.30-5.00pm LEAF (a group for secondary school students to hang out at church, play games, and discuss life)

**Thursday 29th April**
10am Live-streamed Eucharist - Ross
11am Thursday Prayer Group
7.30pm Christian Meditation. Please contact Chris if you would like a Zoom link

**Sunday 2nd May**
8am Live-streamed BCP Communion Service - Ross
9.30am Live-streamed Eucharist Service - Ross
9.30am Parish Eucharist - Walford

*St Mary’s can currently accommodate only 60 people due to social distancing. St Michaels Walford 30. Booking is essential. Please see our website: https://rossparishes.uk/services or contact the office.*

**Please note:** All pre-recorded services will be available on the website (rossparishes.uk) and livestreamed services will be available on the Ross Parishes Facebook page or YouTube. If you are having trouble accessing any services online please contact mark@rossparishes.uk or the church office.
I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to St Mary’s Lent fundraising effort and especially to Freda Davies, whose brain child this is. The final total collected is £4190.21 to which will be added approximately £700 from Gift Aid recovered in due course. Although I say ‘final total’, this does not mean that further contributions will be refused! If you are considering making a donation please do not hesitate. Roy Milnes, St Mary’s Treasurer.

The electoral roll is being revised ahead of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting at St Mary’s on Wednesday 12th May. The revision of the electoral roll needs to be completed before then. If you’d like to be added please use the online form as soon as possible. If you prefer paper you can download an application form and return it to the church office (or collect one from there). If are already on the roll, you do not need to contact us, your name will be carried over. Julian Hallett, Electoral Roll Officer

St Mary’s Churchyard Angels - Volunteers are invited next Saturday May 1st. from 9.30am to strim and rake part of the churchyard. This being the first session for more than 18 months. All welcome. John Setchfield

Ross Community Larder – Annual General Meeting
Ross Community Larder will be holding a short AGM, via Zoom, on Tuesday 11th May at 7pm. If you would like to attend please send an email to: crclarder@outlook.com
The Zoom link will then be sent to you.
Thank you for your continued support of the Larder. Lindsay Cole

Letter from Colin
Recently I was reading a “novel”? or a “true story”? I cannot remember, but the gist of one scene was this.

A couple of friends were lunching in a cafe where the food and the hot drinks came from an open plan kitchen, over a counter to the two waitresses who served the tables and they never had to leave the customer seating area. After a while they noticed that while one waitress seemed to be ignored by the boss, who was supervising everything from within the kitchen, he often was watching the second waitress as she carried food and drink to her customers, and he was then quickly averting his glance just before she turned around to return to the counter. What a terrible boss agreed the lunching couple, fancy having to work for someone who was always spying on you, probably just waiting for the chance to give her the sack.

How wrong they were!
The waitress was the daughter on her first day back after a debilitating illness, the boss was her father who yearned for her to return to fullness of life, couldn’t help himself from watching over her but didn’t want to appear to be spying on her.

We have a heavenly father who yearns for us to return to fullness of life after the debilitation of our sin separating us from him. He knows that through his sacrificial death on the cross we are now equipped for the full life of spreading his gospel of love but he can’t help watching over us: yet having given us free will he won’t be seen to be “spying”, so he has given us this promise:-

“and remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

So in this wonderful Easter season please treasure his presence and get on with the job.

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**Today’s Readings**

**First Reading: Acts 4.5-12**
The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, ‘By what power or by what name did you do this?’ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is “the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.” There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.’

**Gospel Reading: John 10.11-18**
‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.’
In our prayers this week, we pray for:

Those who are ill ...
Ken Burchell and Sheila Walshaw
And all those infected and affected by the coronavirus.

Those who have died...
Rachel Parry, Suzanne Eward, Patrick Jenkins and Margaret Taylor

Our parishes ...
To befriend, partner and develop an inspirational culture that inspires faith, hope and love in our communities.

For all who are isolated and lonely, for the ill and bereaved, and for perseverance and resilience for all.

For staff and patients in Ross Community Hospital.

For all our schools, for head teachers, teachers and students as schools return after the Easter holidays.

For all businesses in Ross, Walford and Brampton Abbots, for the prosperity of business in 2021, and for all who face anxious times.

If you have a prayer request, email us.
We would love to pray for you!

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Prayer for today

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father’s sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father.

Amen