



The Ross Parishes

rossparishes.uk

Ross-on-Wye

Walford

Brampton Abbots

Newsletter

Sunday 21st April 2024

The fourth Sunday of Easter

A very warm welcome to worship in our parishes today

growing inclusive, intergenerational churches that inspire faith, hope and love

Today's Services

Sunday 21st April

8.00am BCP Holy Communion at St Mary's

9.30am Sung Eucharist at St Mary's

9.30am Parish Communion at St Michael's, Walford

Music for St Mary's

9.30am - Sung Eucharist

Setting: Mass of St Thomas - *Thorne*

Introit hymn: 291 (vv 5,7,8 & dox) Christ is made

Gradual hymn: 667 I danced in the morning

Offertory hymn: 672 I will sing the wondrous story

Communion Hymn: The Lord is my shepherd - *Goodall*

Post Communion hymn: 678 In Christ alone

Prayer & readings for today

Collect

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 in to one flock, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

First Reading

Reader: A reading from the Book of the Acts of the Apostles.

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.'

[Acts of the Apostles 4.5-12]

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

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.'

[John 10.11-18]

For our prayers

Those who are ill: Terry Harding, David Stone, Vincent Tweed, Joan Mason, Dawn Bradford's sister Gill and all who are living with long term illnesses or health problems.

Those who mourn, and those who have died: among them David Hall.

Those in our parishes: all who are isolated and lonely, the ill and bereaved; all who need perseverance and resilience; staff and patients in Ross Community Hospital; schools, head teachers, teachers and students; businesses in Ross and around; those working for the prosperity and cohesion of the community.

In the World-Wide Anglican Cycle of Prayer – The Anglican Church of Australia.

Letter from Derek

In a week of heart-rending news stories, I have been most disturbed by an interview with the ten-year old son of a farming family who was explaining how the current spread of an endemic infectious disease is affecting both sheep and lambs. I was taken with his knowledge of both the sheep and the illness, with the depth of feeling for the animals he knew so well, and with the sacrifices he was preparing to make to minimise the impact of disease on his flock.


In an area where sheep farming is so very important these views will have been echoed in countless farm kitchens, in animal pens and in market gatherings – and all these conversations will have been characterised by this sincerity, deep knowledge and determination to find a cure.

Jesus knew what he was talking about when he characterised himself as a good shepherd. He wanted his flock to be carefully tended, nurtured, and supported in their growth. He recognised that hired hands would lack commitment, that they would easily be deflected from their duties and that they could be influenced by others.

Jesus also spoke of other sheep, at his time, the Gentiles, but he also stressed that new shepherds would extend the kingdom through determination, consideration, and nurturing. As we begin the process of searching for a Rector we have to recall three ideas from this passage in John. We have to remember that we are of one flock and recall the togetherness of established groups; we have to accept the shepherd chosen for us, as did the growing flocks of the young church, and we have to live according to the Shepherds' rules. For us, this is the basis of our living faith that we can all become one flock. Amen.

News from the Parishes

This Tuesday is St George's Day - and there will be a benefice celebration of England's patron saint in Walford Church at 6.30pm, with a party to follow. You are invited! Rousing hymns and famous readings will be part of the celebrations.

Fairtrade Church and Gifts of Coffee – Thank you to everyone who kindly donates tea and coffee to the church kitchen. We are very grateful. However, please be aware that St Mary's has signed up as a Fairtrade Church and has pledged to use only Fairtrade Tea and Coffee. Some supermarkets do sell this – look for the symbol  which shows how much the growers, many of whom live in poverty, lose out when the big suppliers cut prices. We do buy in Fairtrade tea and coffee and so (unless something has gone wrong) it is not vital for you to buy it for us though any donations are always welcome. Thank you. Rachel Lewis

Ascension Day is a red letter day in the church's year and a great festival day. This year Ascension Day falls on Thursday 9th May. In this benefice there will be services at 10am and 7.30pm, both at St Mary's. Full details next week, but here is a date for your diary, a day to celebrate Christ's final triumph as the universal King of Love.

Bishop's Year of Faith teaching morning at St Mary's Saturday 11 May 9.30am-1.00pm.

Bishop Richard will be leading a morning in our deanery as part of the Year of Faith and we are hosting it! Come and spend time with our bishop, be inspired to grow in confidence in your faith and help give everyone visiting a big Ross Parishes' welcome!

There will be a teaching session with the bishop and seminars to choose from.

Places must be booked in advance either through Rachael in the office (01989 562175) or book online at: www.hereford.anglican.org/calendar/732

Hedgehog Fayre, Saturday 3rd August - we are hoping to have Ross's first Hedgehog Fayre in the church and churchyard. We are looking for ideas to make this a fantastic event for the church, town and even hedgehogs! There will be an informal meeting on **Wednesday 1st May** at approximately 2.00pm, following the lunchtime concert that day (come to that too!) and bring thoughts and suggestions along. If you have any ideas but are unable to come, please email them to rachel@rossparishes.uk

St Mary's APCM Reports - Please could the coordinators of all groups at St Mary's send a report for the APCM which will be printed in a booklet as usual. The APCM is on Tuesday 21st May but in order to collate and print the booklets I need reports for 2023 (and vision for 2024 if you wish), by Friday 26th April. Please send them to rachel@rossparishes.uk. Thank you, Rachel Lewis, PCC Secretary.

St Mary's Electoral Roll is a register of church members and qualifies you to vote on a number of church matters, both locally and nationally. If you are not already on our roll, now is your chance to be added. There are forms on the church website under the St Mary's Annual Church Meetings section, and paper copies of the form on the welcome desk at the back of church. You can also request one by email: hallettjulian@hotmail.com

To be eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting of the PCC, or be elected to the PCC, you must be included on the roll by Sunday 5th May 2024. Renewal of the roll takes place every six years (next renewal for St Mary's is in 2025), so if you are already on the roll, you do not need to take any action this year. Julian Hallett, Electoral Roll Officer

Invitation to Sean's Consecration and Enthronement services - All parishioners have been warmly invited to attend these services in Bahrain on Friday 24th May at 6.00pm, and in

Cyprus on 22nd June at 5pm. RSVPs need to be sent by 3rd and 31st May, respectively. For these details, please contact Rachael in the admin office on 01989 562175. We will be screening the first service in St Mary's. The service starts at 4.00pm (our time) on Friday 24th May. All are invited to join us. If you can't manage that, some of it happens all over again in Cyprus on Saturday 22nd June. More on that to follow.

This week in the Ross Parishes

Every day	9.00am Morning Prayer by Zoom, rossparishes.uk/morning-prayer
Tues 23rd	9.00am-11.00am Tea & Toast and Community Larder, St Mary's Hall 11.00am Service of Thanksgiving – Sir Colin Shepherd, St Mary's 2.30pm Just B (Bereavement Group), St Mary's 6.30pm St George's Day Service, St Michael's, Walford
Weds 24th	8.45am-10.15am Toast & Toddle, St Mary's 11.00am-12.30pm Craft @ St Mary's
Thurs 25th	10.00am Eucharist, Markye Chapel, St Mary's 11.45am St Mary's Thursday Prayer group by Zoom, rossparishes.uk/worship/prayer
Fri 26th	6.30pm Youth Choir 7.00pm-8.00pm Choir Practice
Sun 28th	8.00am Holy Communion, St Mary's 9.30am Sung Eucharist, St Mary's 10.30am for 11.00am Family Service, St Michael's, Walford

Further ahead

1st May	1.00pm Lunchtime Concert with Northwick Consort, St Mary's 1.45pm Mother's Union, St Mary's Hall
2nd May	3.45pm-5.00pm Messy Church, St Mary's
4th May	10.30am Coffee & Sgwrs, St Mary's
5th May	11.00am-2.00pm GROW Youth Group, St Mary's Hall
12th -18th May	Christian Aid Week
Tues 21st May	7.00pm - St Mary's APCM, St Mary's

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