



The Ross Parishes

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Ross-on-Wye
Walford
Brampton Abbots

Newsletter

Sunday 28th April 2024

The fifth 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 28th April

8.00am BCP Holy Communion at St Mary's

9.30am Sung Eucharist at St Mary's

10.30am for 11.00am Family Service at St Michael's, Walford

Music for St Mary's

9.30am - Sung Eucharist

Setting: Mass of St Cedd - *Nardone*

Introit hymn: 194 Alleluia, hearts to heaven

Gradual hymn: 212 Now the green blade rises

Offertory hymn: 494 I the Lord of sea and sky

Communion: The strife is o'er - *Ley*

Post Communion hymn: 454 Love is his word

Prayer & readings for today

Collect

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

First Reading

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

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was

denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea. [Acts of the Apostles 8. 26-40]

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

[John 15.1-8]

For our prayers

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

Those who mourn, and those who have died: among them David Hall and Dawn Bradford's sister, Gill.

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 Church of Bangladesh.

Letter from Freda

Yesterday the church remembered the poet Christina Rossetti, who died on 27th April 1894. She was the sister of Dante Gabriel Rossetti, also a poet and an artist, who was one of the founders of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood.

Christina was a committed Christian and wrote some religious books, poems and prayers. Probably the best known is her Christmas carol, 'In the bleak midwinter'. She also wrote a poem entitled 'Let me go', which is often read at funerals and still provides comfort for people today. It contains some good advice for those who mourn the loss of loved ones. Here are a few lines:

*'Miss me, but let me go. For this is a journey we all must take
And each must go alone. It's all part of the master plan*

*A step on the road to home. When you are lonely and sick at heart
Go the friends we know. Laugh at all the things we used to do
Miss me, but let me go'.*

Some of her prayers, though written over a hundred years ago, remain very relevant today. Here is an example:

'O Lord, you are our refuge in every storm. Hide us in your own presence from all the violence in the world. By your holy love and fear, keep us from sins of temper and of the tongue. Amen.'

This is still meaningful for us in the 21st century when there is so much conflict and turmoil in so many parts of the world, and it is a good prayer too whenever we forget to obey Jesus' commandment to love one another as he loved us. Freda

News from the Parishes

Out and About for Evensong – As last year, our choir is travelling around the deanery now for Evensong through the summer months. We had a lovely time at Pencoyd last week. Full details of where we'll be and when at rossparishes.uk/evensong

Monmouth Big Band – The Friends are delighted that last Saturday's concert / dance was such a great success and after expenses raised nearly £1000 which will come to St Mary's. Look out for the next one, the evening was greatly enjoyed, thanks to the band.

Mothers' Union Wednesday May 1st, 2pm - You are welcome to join us in the Church Hall to hear Sue Spence speak about her experience of teaching in China.

Coffee@ St Mary's with Sgwrs May 5th from 10.30am till noon - in church, will be hosted by the bell ringers. Come and meet some of the team who call us to the 9.30am services each week and bring your friends for a chat and tasty home-made cakes.

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.

Christian Aid Week -12th-18th May – Christian Aid week helps people around the world to push back and escape the inhumanity of poverty. Gift envelopes will be distributed at our churches on Sunday 12th and they can be returned on Sunday 19th, 26th or any other time during the week. A quiz and pudding evening fundraiser to augment gifts will be held on Saturday 22nd.

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 .

Grant funding – We are grateful to the Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust for a recent donation of £5,000 toward the cost of improving and enlarging the nave platform in St Mary's. The Friends have also received funding from Ross Town Council, The Edward Cadbury Charitable Trust, William Allen Young Charitable Trust for this project.

This week in the Ross Parishes

Every day	9.00am Morning Prayer by Zoom, rossparishes.uk/morning-prayer
Tues 30th	9.00am-11.00am Tea & Toast and Community Larder, St Mary's Hall
Weds 1st	8.45am-10.15am Toast & Toddle, St Mary's 11.15am Ponder & Pray contact freda@rossparishes.uk 1.00pm Lunchtime Concert with Northwick Consort, St Mary's 1.45pm-4.00pm Mother's Union, St Mary's Hall
Thurs 2nd	10.00am Eucharist, Markye Chapel, St Mary's 11.45am St Mary's Thursday Prayer group by Zoom, rossparishes.uk/worship/prayer 12 noon Funeral – David Hall, St Mary's 3.45pm-5.00pm Messy Church, St Mary's
Fri 3rd	6.30pm Youth Choir 7.00pm-8.00pm Choir Practice
Sat 4th	10.30am-12 noon Coffee & Sgwrs, St Mary's
Sun 5th	8.00am Holy Communion, St Mary's 9.30am All Age Eucharist, St Mary's 9.30am Parish Eucharist, St Michael's, Walford 11.00am-2.00pm GROW Youth Group, St Mary's Hall

Further ahead

1 st May	2.00pm Hedgehog Fayre Planning Meeting, St Mary's
8th May	Craft @ St Mary's
1st May	Bishop's Year of Faith teaching morning, St Mary's
12th -18th May	Christian Aid Week
21st May	7.00pm - St Mary's APCM, St Mary's
22nd May	" Let me Tell You A Story", by Very Revd Sarah Brown, Dean of Hereford in St Mary's

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