



The Ross Parishes

rossparishes.uk

Ross-on-Wye

Walford

Brampton Abbots

Newsletter

Sunday 7th April 2024

The second 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 7th April

8.00am BCP Holy Communion at St Mary's

9.30am All Age Sung Eucharist at St Mary's

Music for St Mary's

9.30am – All Age Sung Eucharist

Setting: Mass of St Thomas – *Thorne*

Introit hymn: 394 Tell out, my soul

Gradual hymn: 595 Be thou my vision

Offertory hymn: 452 Let all mortal flesh

Communion hymn: The Lord bless you - *Rutter*

Post Communion hymn: 483 We are marching

Prayer & readings for today

Collect

Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise of God the Father.

Amen.

First Reading

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

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. [Acts of the Apostles 4.32-35]

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name. [John 20.19-end]

For our prayers

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

Those who mourn, and those who have died.

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 Episcopal/Anglican Province of Alexandria.

Letter from Archdeacon Fiona

April marks the 100th anniversary of the first broadcast by a monarch of the United Kingdom, when King George V opened the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley in north London in April 1924. The speech lasts about six and a half minutes, and you can hear it in all its scratchily-recorded glory on YouTube.

I wonder if anyone then had any idea how much broadcasting would change in the coming century? We now take for granted the fact that we can see and hear almost anyone in public life at any time thanks to a 24-hour media. TikTok and Instagram have brought broadcasting within reach of any of us with a smartphone.

Communication seems to be hard-wired into us as human beings. That shouldn't surprise us, because our God is a God who communicates. Back in the earliest chapters of Genesis, it's the

voice of God that brings creation into being. When Jesus is awoken by his terrified disciples in the middle of a storm, it's his words shouted into the tumult that calm the winds and the waves. When the Holy Spirit comes upon the apostles at Pentecost, they speak the message of Christ crucified and risen in words their hearers can understand.

The story is told of a rabbi who could never get further in his reading of the Scriptures than Genesis 1:2, "And God said." The wonder of a God who speaks was too much for him to take in. I wonder if that's why we love podcasts, audiobooks, and the radio so much – because it's as if someone were sitting next to us and chatting? As if we're listening in on a conversation that we're invited to be part of?

I wonder, too, if that's why words can wound us as well as heal us – because they go deep into the heart of our being?

The apostle James talked about the power of speech, how hard it is to tame the tongue, and how inconsistent we are when we say, "Praise God," in one breath and in the next run down another human being. Those are challenging words in an era where talk is easy, but we do well to take them to heart.

There are other times when we are slow to speak, perhaps out of anxiety or fear. Once such time can be when we try to talk about our faith. In this, our Diocesan Year of Faith, we are all encouraged to have confidence that the story we have to share in our Christian faith is one people want to hear, and to become more comfortable talking about our faith.

We may never become those who broadcast to the world, as King George V did 100 years ago, but I wonder how we could learn to "broadcast" our faith in simple ways, and speak words of life to those who are longing to hear them? AD Fiona

News from the Parishes

St George's Day, Tuesday 23rd April - St David's Day recently drew a substantial congregation to Walford Church, in full voice! England has a patron saint too, and we plan to mark St George's Day with Evening Prayer, great hymns and a party at Walford, at 6.30pm. A flag will fly from the tower, and we will pray for our King, our nation, and our future in uncertain times.

First Wednesdays @ 1, Free lunchtime concerts – April-October, quite informal, with tables available to eat lunch. Please spread the word and come along if you're free. Full programme at rossparishes.uk/lunchtime-concerts

Confirmation - teens and adult groups It's wonderful that so many of our young people (from all three of our parishes) are keen to explore confirmation this year. Our Grow Confirmation Group will be starting on the first Sunday in May, preparing for the confirmation service on Sunday 6 October at the 9.30am All Age Eucharist in St Mary's.

There will also be an opportunity for adult confirmation preparation. Please let Rachael in the office know if you are interested- or speak to any of the clergy or readers.

LifeLink News! Through our deanery schools network (started as part of the LifeLink Project) this year nearly every Year 6 pupil in our deanery will be given a copy of "Its Your Move", a wonderful, supportive, guide to moving up to secondary school, written by Scripture Union. We will also be there to welcome those going to John Kyrle School on their induction day, and we're making links with other local secondary schools too. We are hard at work with the diocese and the school on the LifeLink Chaplaincy job description ready to advertise soon!

Deanery funding is continuing to come in - as well as churches we have angel and local

organisations contributing - huge thanks for example to Llangarron Parish (civil) Council who have just made a generous donation.

Please give thanks and keep praying for the growing ways we are linking school + church + homelife here in the Ross Parishes and deanery. Caroline. Caroline@rossparishes.uk

Safari Supper - Thank you to those that have reserved their places on the Safari Supper, however, to date the overall response has been disappointing and at present the event is not viable and may have to be postponed. The event is due to be held on Saturday 27th April. To volunteer as a host, prepare a dessert or come for the evening as a guest, please email pbgcummings@gmail.com or call 07970 3156360 by Monday 8th April. Alternatively, do please speak to Paul at Sean's farewell service.

This week in the Ross Parishes

Every day	9.00am - Morning Prayer by Zoom, rossparishes.uk/morning-prayer
Tues 9th	9.00am-11.00am - Tea & Toast and Community Larder, St Mary's Hall
Weds 10th	8.45am-10.15am Toast & Toddle, St Mary's 11.00am-12.30pm – Craft @ St Mary's
Thurs 11th	10.00am - Eucharist, Markye Chapel, St Mary's 11.45am - St Mary's Thursday Prayer group by Zoom, rossparishes.uk/worship/prayer
Sat 13th	2.00pm – Baptism, Autumn & Willow, St Michael's, Walford
Sun 14th	8.00am Holy Communion, St Mary's 9.30am Sung Eucharist, St Mary's 9.30am Parish Eucharist, St Michael's, Walford

Further ahead in April

Weds 17th	11.00am - Brampton Abbots APCM, Village Hall
Fri 19th	9.30am-11.30am – Paddle & Praise, contact mandwalston@btinternet.com
Tues 21st May	7.00pm - St Mary's APCM, St Mary's

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