



The Ross Parishes

rossparishes.uk

Ross-on-Wye
Walford
Brampton Abbots

Newsletter

Sunday 12th May 2024

The seventh 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 12th May

8.00am BCP Holy Communion at St Mary's

9.30am Sung Eucharist at St Mary's

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St Michael's, Walford

Music for St Mary's

9.30am - Sung Eucharist

Setting: Trinity Mass - *Dyke*

Introit hymn: 228 Hail the day

Gradual hymn: 787 Take my life

Offertory hymn: 422 Alleluia sing to Jesus

Communion: If ye Love me - *Tallis*

Post Communion hymn: 227 Crown him

Prayer & readings for today

Collect

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

First Reading

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

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and said, 'Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus— for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry. So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.' So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed

and said, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.' And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

[Acts of the Apostles 1.15-17, 1.21-end]

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

[John 17.6-19]

For our prayers

Those who are ill: Terry Harding, David Stone, Vincent Tweed, Joan Mason, Enid Thomas 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 Anglican Church of Burundi

Letter from David

Last week Voyager 1 spoke again. Launched in 1977, the craft has visited outer planets of the solar system and is now speeding on into deep space. It relayed information back to earth until it fell silent last year, but after repairs carried out remotely (radio instructions took over 22 hours to reach it) it is communicating again. It is now 24 billion kilometres away and it will send signals until its power runs out. Scientists think it will then continue for ever - in Buzz Lightyear's words: 'To infinity and beyond'. It is a modern miracle and it tells us about the world in which we live.

Last Thursday, the Church marked the Ascension, the event in which Jesus departed from his disciples for the last time. It is usually accepted that he moved upwards through the clouds, but if you look at the final accounts about him in the Gospels you will find that Luke alone mentions his ascension as an event (though some of the earliest versions of his Gospel omit this). Only in the Acts of the Apostles is it stated plainly that when Jesus left his disciples he was 'lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight'. Here, Acts was following the common view of the time that God and heaven were 'up there'.

Where did Jesus go? Can we, knowing what we do about the universe, accept the view that has been handed down? The truth the first Christian authors convey is that in his resurrection Jesus showed he was one with God, a truth at the heart of Christianity. The challenge for us is how to explain this in the world we know today.

News from the Parishes

Christian Aid Week -12th-18th May – Gift envelopes will be distributed at our churches today, 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 June.

Ross Dementia Awareness Week Service - We are hosting the annual Churches Together service of singing, readings and prayers at 11.00am on Wednesday May 15th. All very welcome to this lively event - refreshments to follow. Details from Derek 01989 565167

St Mary's APCM – join us from 6.40pm for a glass of wine or soft drink in church on Tuesday 21st May before the Annual Meetings at 7pm. All reports, PCC nomination forms and further information are available at rossparishes.uk/APCMs. Limited paper copies (for those without access to the internet) can be found on the table near the door.

Life Link Chaplaincy Grant – We are delighted that our application to the **Benefact Trust** has resulted in a grant of £27,000 across 3 years for our Life Link Chaplaincy. This should mean that we are now financially water-tight on this project; but we are also emboldened that a national funding body is prepared to put their trust in our exciting project in this way. The job advert will be placed very soon and we look forward to more exciting developments.

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.

Faith@Five - Last summer's series of talks at St Mary's on early Sunday evenings proved popular. So a second series is being planned for this summer, at 5pm, again on some Sunday evenings, with simple prayers at 6.00pm to close the day. We will be looking at six major themes in Christian believing. More details very soon. The gatherings are open to all in the benefice, and more widely.

This week in the Ross Parishes

Every day	9.00am Morning Prayer by Zoom, rossparishes.uk/morning-prayer
Sun 12th	8.00am Holy Communion St Mary's 9.30am Sung Eucharist, St Mary's 9.30am Eucharist, St Michael's, Walford
Tues 14th	9.00am-11.00am Tea & Toast and Community Larder, St Mary's Hall
Weds 15th	8.45am-10.15am Toast & Toddle, St Mary's

	11.00am Service for Dementia week, St Mary's
	11.00am Ponder & Pray, contact freda@rossparishes.uk
	1.30pm – Contemplative Prayer, contact freda@rossparishes.uk
Thurs 16th	10.00am Eucharist, Markye Chapel, St Mary's
	11.45am St Mary's Thursday Prayer group by Zoom, rossparishes.uk/worship/prayer
Fri 17th	6.30pm Youth Choir
	7.00pm-8.00pm Choir Practice
Sun 19th	8.00am Holy Communion St Mary's
	9.30am Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist, St Mary's
	6.00pm Come Sing & Sup for Pentecost, St Mary's

Further ahead

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
24th May	9.30am-11.30am Paddle & Praise, contact mandwalston@btinternet.com 4.00pm-5.30pm Screening of Sean Semple's Consecration & Enthronement in Bahrain, St Mary's
28th May	2.30pm-4.00pm Just B Bereavement Support, St Mary's

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