



The Ross Parishes

rossparishes.uk

Ross-on-Wye

Walford

Brampton Abbots

Newsletter

Sunday 5th May 2024

The sixth 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 5th May

8.00am BCP Holy Communion at St Mary's

9.30am All Age Eucharist at St Mary's

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St Michael's, Walford

Music for St Mary's

9.30am - Sung Eucharist

Setting: *Thorne*

Introit hymn: 644 God is Love

Gradual hymn: 612 Christ Triumphant

Offertory hymn: 348 O Perfect Love

Communion: For the beauty - *Rutter*

Post Communion hymn: 721 Love Divine

Prayer & readings for today

Collect

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples: help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

First Reading

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

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days. [Acts of the Apostles 10. 44-end]

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

[John 15.9-17]

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.

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 - Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

Letter from Bishop Richard

Dear Friends - May marks the end of the Easter season and the beginning of what is affectionately known as 'ordinary time' in the Church calendar. The pivot happens at the feast of Pentecost on May 19th this year. Every Sunday is always a celebration of the resurrection, so its hard to see what is ordinary about it. The events of the Christ's death and resurrection are the turning point of history. It is a world-shattering event that means life can never be the same again. The book of Acts tells us how the disciples' lives were turned upside down by it. In their grief at the loss of Jesus a number were considering returning to their previous occupations. Once they encountered the risen Lord, they decided to change the world instead! However, it was not just historical events which changed things. It was the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The Christian faith has always been a supernatural one. In the struggles to fill rotas, find volunteers, maintain buildings and serve our communities we can easily forget this. If the Christian life was just a set of rules to obey, religious acts to observe and an institution to maintain, it would not have lasted very long.

Trusting in the Holy Spirit to empower and lead is less safe than seeking to control events ourselves. Periodically in the history of the Church the Holy Spirit has broken through in ways that have upended our conventional way of doing things. It happened in the Wesleyan revival of the 18th century, numerous mini revivals in the church (of which some happened in our

diocese) and in the great outpouring in Azusa Street in 1906 that gave birth to Pentecostalism. This is now the third largest stream in the Church today. In many ways it is hard to see how our current institutional predicament can be served by strategic thinking alone. I am praying for another (likely messy!) outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Diocese of Hereford. Only the Holy Spirit can give us the courage we need for the evangelistic challenge. Only the Holy Spirit can turn the hearts of those currently indifferent to Christian things to help see their need for the Lord. So, 'Come Holy Spirit and kindle the hearts of your people with the fire of your love'. Today, we need that more than ever. +Richard

News from the Parishes

Coffee@ St Mary's with Sgwrs today from 10.30am till noon - hosted by the bell ringers.

Come and meet some of the team who call us to the 9.30am services each week.

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

Ascension Day - This red letter day and major festival of the church's year falls this year on **Thursday 9th May**. Across the world the church will celebrate Christ's elevation as the King of Glory. In this benefice our celebrations will centre on a Eucharist at 7.30pm in St Mary's. The bells will ring, a drinks party is planned, and the preacher is Canon James Pacey. James is Chancellor of Hereford Cathedral, a young priest, and one who has already made his mark in Hereford, directing the recent sell-out Hereford Passion. We have also invited friends from other churches in Ross who will take a part. And besides all that, glorious music for Ascension-tide has been chosen. There will also be a Eucharist at 10.00am as usual, at St Mary's. All are invited to keep the feast!

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 June.

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 5th	11.00am-2.00pm GROW Youth Group, St Mary's Hall 11.00am-1.00pm Senior GROW Youth Group, St Mary's Hall 11.00am-1.00pm Young People's Explore Confirmation Group, upstairs Room in St Mary's Hall
Mon 6th	12 noon Prayers for St Mary's, St Mary's
Tues 7th	9.00am-11.00am Tea & Toast and Community Larder, St Mary's Hall
Weds 8th	8.45am-10.15am Toast & Toddle, St Mary's 11.00am-12.30pm Craft @ St Mary's, St Mary's
Thurs 9th	10.00am Eucharist, Markye Chapel, St Mary's 11.45am St Mary's Thursday Prayer group by Zoom, rossparishes.uk/worship/prayer 7.30pm Ascension Day Service, St Mary's
Fri 10th	6.30pm Youth Choir 7.00pm-8.00pm Choir Practice
Sat 11th	9.30am-1.00pm Year of Faith Teaching Day, St Mary's
Sun 12th	8.00am Holy Communion St Mary's 9.30am Sung Eucharist, St Mary's 9.30am Eucharist, St Michael's, Walford

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

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