



**ST. LAURENCE CHURCH
HAWKHURST**

**FAMILY COMMUNION
9TH. APRIL 2023**

EASTER SUNDAY



ZOOM DETAILS:

Meeting ID: 457 244 0784
Passcode: 5i1UCa

The Lord be with you
And also with you

OPENING PRAYER

Eternal God, who made this most holy day to shine with the brightness of your one true light: set us aflame with the fire of your love, and bring us to the radiance of your heavenly glory through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**THE EASTER CANDLE IS
BLESSED**

Christ, yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega all time belongs to him,

and all ages; to him be glory and power, through every age and for ever. **Amen.**

**THE EASTER EXULTET IS
SUNG**

HYMN

Jesus Christ is ris'n today, alleluia!

Our triumphant holy day, alleluia!
Who did once, upon the cross, alleluia!

Suffer to redeem our loss, alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, alleluia!

Unto Christ, our heavenly king, alleluia!

Who endured the cross and grave, alleluia!

Sinners to redeem and save, alleluia!

But the pains that he endured, alleluia!

Our salvation have procured; alleluia!

Now above the sky he's king, alleluia!

Where the angels ever sing, alleluia!

WELCOME

The Vicar welcomes the congregation

Alleluia, Christ is Risen
He is risen indeed. Alleluia

Posies of flowers are placed on the cross.

(Silence is kept before we confess our sins.)

Jesus Christ, risen master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief. We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

May the Father forgive us by the death and resurrection of his Son, and strengthen us to live in the power of the Spirit all our days.

Amen

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

We pray together:

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and

honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. Amen

READING ACTS 10:34-43 read by Claire Roberts

Then Peter began to speak: "I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

"We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that

everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

HYMN

We have a gospel to proclaim,
good news for men in all the earth;
the gospel of a saviour’s name:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Tell of his birth at Bethlehem,
not in a royal house or hall
but in a stable dark and dim:
the Word made flesh, a light for
all.

Tell of his death at Calvary,
hated by those he came to save;
in lonely suffering on the cross
for all he loved, his life he gave.
Tell of that glorious Easter morn:
empty the tomb, for he was free;
he broke the power of death and
hell
that we might share his victory.

Tell of his reign at God’s right
hand,
by all creation glorified;
he sends his Spirit on his church
to live for him, the lamb who died.

Now we rejoice to name him king;
Jesus is Lord of all the earth;
the gospel-message we proclaim:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

THE GOSPEL READING

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

A reading from the Holy Gospel
according to Matthew, Chapter
twenty eight beginning at the first
verse

Glory to you O Lord

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the
first day of the week, Mary Mag-
dalene and the other Mary went to
look at the tomb.

There was a violent earthquake,
for an angel of the Lord came
down from heaven and, going to
the tomb, rolled back the stone
and sat on it. His appearance was
like lightning, and his clothes were
white as snow. The guards were
so afraid of him that they shook
and became like dead men.

The angel said to the women, “Do
not be afraid, for I know that you
are looking for Jesus, who was
crucified. He is not here; he has
risen, just as he said. Come and
see the place where he lay. Then
go quickly and tell his disciples:
‘He has risen from the dead and
is going ahead of you into Galilee.
There you will see him.’ Now I
have told you.”

So the women hurried away from
the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy,
and ran to tell his disciples. Sud-
denly Jesus met them. “Greet-
ings,” he said. They came to him,
clasped his feet and worshiped
him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do
not be afraid. Go and tell my
brothers to go to Galilee; there
they will see me.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord,
Praise to you, O Christ.

**REFLECTION GIVEN BY MARY
TANNER**

THE CREED

Father, we adore You,
lay our lives before You,
how we love You.

Jesus we adore You,
lay our lives before You,
how we love You.

Spirit, we adore You,
lay our lives before You,
how we love You.

**RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL
VOWS**

The Vicar addresses the congregation

In baptism, God calls us out of
darkness into his marvellous light.
To follow Christ means dying to
sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion
against God?

All I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and
corruption of evil?

All I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate
us from God and neighbour?

All I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

All I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

All I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way,
the truth and the life?

All I come to Christ.

May God, who has given you the
desire to follow Christ, give you
the strength to continue in the
Way. Amen

*After renewing their baptismal
vows, the people are sprinkled
with Holy Water.*

**PRAYERS LED BY JANE
COOPER**

In joy and hope let us pray to the
Father. That our risen Saviour
may fill us with the joy of his glorious
and life-giving resurrection ...
we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That isolated and persecuted
churches may find fresh strength
in the good news of Easter ... we
pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That God would bring peace to all
affected by war and conflict... we
pray to the Father

Hear our prayer.

That God may grant us humility to
be subject to one another in
Christian love ... we pray to the
Father.

Hear our prayer.

That he may provide for those who lack food, work or shelter ...we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That by his power war and famine may cease through all the world ... we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak and the dying, to comfort and strengthen them ...we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That, according to his promises, all who have died in the faith of the resurrection may be raised on the last day ... we pray to the Father.

We pray for those recently departed: and for those whose years' mind occur this month: Thomas William Barker, Olive Fitzpatrick, Brenda Bladon, Jimmy Dunlop, Edwin Manser, Roger Smith, Richard Hunt, Eileen Sheldon, Lydia Hartrup, Dick Howarth, Elijah Towner, Sheila Radford, Rebecca Barker, Thomas Heady, Elsie Dodson, Anna Towner.

Hear our prayer.

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people, so that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection, ...we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant that, as his death has recalled us to life so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

WE SHARE GOD'S PEACE

We stand to sing

**Shalom, Shalom,
May peace be with you,
Throughout your days;
In all that you do,
May peace be with you,
Shalom, Shalom.**

(Repeat)

HYMN

A collection will be made during the singing of this hymn

Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,
Your sweetest notes employ,
The Paschal victory to hymn
In strains of holy joy.

How Judah's Lion burst his chains,
And crushed the serpent's head;
And brought with him, from death's domains,
The long-imprisoned dead.

From hell's devouring jaws the prey
Alone our Leader bore;
His ransomed hosts pursue their way
Where he hath gone before.
Triumphant in his glory now

His sceptre ruleth all,
Earth, heaven, and hell before
him bow,
And at his footstool fall.

While joyful thus his praise we
sing,
His mercy we implore,
Into his palace bright to bring
And keep us evermore.

All glory to the Father be,
All glory to the Son,
All glory, Holy Ghost, to thee,
While endless ages run. Alleluya!
Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Lift up your hearts
We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our
God

**It is right to give him thanks
and praise**

**Why do we give thanks and
praise at this table?**

We give thanks for all that God
has done for us.

God the Father created the heav-
ens, the earth and everything in
them; and created us in his own
image.

Let us give thanks and praise

Christ our Lord became human
like us, and died to save us.

Let us give thanks and praise

God sent the Holy Spirit to gather
us together as the people of God
Let us give thanks and praise

So come let us join together to
worship this God who loves
We sing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of
your glory.**

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna
in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in
the highest.**

Please sit

We praise you Father that before
Jesus our Saviour suffered and
died, he gave us this holy meal to
share and told us to continue it un-
til he comes again.

**Why do we eat bread together
at this table?**

On the night before he died, Je-
sus took bread. After giving
thanks, he broke it, and gave it to
his disciples saying, "Take, eat.
This is my body, given for you. Do
this in remembrance of me."

**Why do we drink from the cup
together at this table?**

In the same way after supper Je-
sus took the cup, saying. "This
cup is God's new covenant sealed
with my blood, poured out for you
for the forgiveness of sins. Do this
in remembrance of me"

What do we remember at this table?

We remember the Father's gracious love for us, Christ's death and resurrection for us, and the Spirit's tender care for us.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

We sing:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Merciful Father, pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. In eating and drinking together may we be made one with Christ and with one another. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, blessed are those who are called to his supper

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you but only say the word and I shall be healed.

A Prayer for those joining us on Zoom who are making their Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

**The Chalice Bearers today are:
Ali Jones and Peter Hodges**

POST-COMMUNION HYMN

The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
the passover of gladness,
the passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
from earth unto the sky,
our Christ hath brought us over,
with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil,
that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal
of resurrection light;
and listening to his accents,
may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and, hearing,
may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful!
Let earth the song begin!
Let the round world keep triumph,
and all that is therein!
Let all things seen and unseen
their notes in gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord hath risen,
our joy that hath no end.

THE EASTER GARDEN IS BLESSED

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. To you be glory now and for ever. In your great mercy you have given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. By your blessing, may we who have prepared this garden in celebration of his victory be strengthened in faith, know the power of his presence, and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER.

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us

from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

THE BLESSING

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing ...**Amen**

NOTICES

HYMN

Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes,
where thy body lay.

***Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.***

Lo, Jesus meets us risen from the tomb,
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord is living, death has lost its sting.

Thine be the glory

No more we doubt thee, glorious
Prince of life;
life is nought without thee, aid us
in our strife;
make us more than conquerors,
through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to
thy home above.

Thine be the glory

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God

May the divine assistance remain
with us always.

**And with all our brothers and
sisters in Christ.**

May the souls of the faithful de-
parted through the mercy of God,
rest in peace.

And rise in glory. Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

We listen to the Organ Voluntary

***The Vicar and members of the
PCC wish you a Blessed
Easter.***

***Please stop to pray at the
Easter Garden to thank God for
His undying love for us.***

PARISH BREAKFAST

on Saturday April 29th 2023. The
speaker will be Dame Mary
Tanner. More details below.
Please sign the list on the table if
you would like to attend.

**A talk by Dame Mary Tanner -
29th April, 2023 - 9.30am - at the
Parish Church of St. Laurence,
Hawkhurst**

**“The best job ever”: friendship,
reconciliation unity”**

*Over breakfast together on Satur-
day April 29th Mary will describe
how she came to have ‘the best
job ever’. It was all about under-
standing others and making
friends across the divide of
churches - Roman Catholic, Or-
thodox, Methodist, Lutheran, Bap-
tist, Pentecostal and trying to un-
derstand what were those things
that caused division, about dis-
covering how we had so often
misrepresented one another, how
we had grown over the years fur-
ther and further apart, and how,
through the ecumenical move-
ment, the new movement of the
twentieth century, we might re-
ceive gifts from one another and
offer our gifts to others. It was*

about coming out of our isolations, building friendships, discovering how much common faith we shared and how we might worship, witness and serve together in the world, working together for justice, peace and the integrity of creation. It was about how we might become more faithful to the prayer of Jesus, 'May they be one so that the world might believe'?

About Dame Mary Tanner

For seventeen years Mary taught Old Testament and Hebrew at Hull and Bristol Universities and Westcott House, Cambridge. Her increasing involvement in the ecumenical movement led her in 1982 to join the staff of the Board for Mission and Unity of the General Synod of the Church of England, later becoming the first General Secretary of the Council for Christian Unity.

From 1974 Mary served as the Church of England's representative on the Faith and Order Commission, the theological commission, of the World Council of Churches becoming its first woman Moderator in 1991. She chaired the Advisory Committee

of the study on 'The Church as a Community of Women and Men'.

Mary was a member of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission. She was secretary to the Conversations with the Evangelical Church in Germany which led to the Meissen Agreement and was awarded by the President of Germany, the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit. She also served on the Conversations with the Nordic and Baltic churches which led to the Porvoo Agreement bringing Anglican churches of the British Isles and Nordic and Baltic Lutheran churches into a close relationship of communion. She was awarded by the King of Sweden the Order of the Polar Star.

After retirement in 1998 Mary continued her ecumenical ministry. As President for Europe of the World Council of Churches she travelled to many parts of Europe and was a visiting Professor in New York, Jerusalem and Rome.

Throughout her ecumenical work Mary was concerned to bring the results of the ecumenical regional and international agreements into

the life and witness of local churches.

In 2008 Mary was made a Dame of the British Empire by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for her work for the Anglican Communion and the Ecumenical Movement.



Dame Mary Tanner

WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST at Bowles Lodge ~ 10.00a.m.
Please do join us.

ELECTORAL ROLL - if you would like to be registered on the Electoral Roll of St Laurence please speak to Stephen Ringer. Names can be added up to the date of the **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** which will be held on Sunday 23 April. Application forms are available on the table at the back of the church.

FLOWER GUILD - Flower Festival in St Laurence Church over

the weekend of King Charles' coronation. Monetary donations for flowers would be most welcome.

PLEASE NOTE - we now have the facility to accept donations by Credit Card/Apple Pay etc. The machine will be on the table opposite the pew leaflets after the service.

LOAVES AND FISHES SUNDAY every 3rd Sunday monthly. The next collection date will be Sunday 23rd April. All contribution of non- perishables will be collected and donated to the Hawkhurst Food Bank.

AT YOUR SERVICE

Vicar: Fr. Rodney Dreyer
01580 754459

Churchwardens:
Miss Alison Jones
01580 755705
Mrs. Liz Hatcher
01580 712099

Organist:
Dr. Charlotte O' Neill
01580 753817

Safeguarding:
Mrs Jane Cooper
07825044877



Seven Stanzas at Easter

Make no mistake: if He rose at all
it was as His body;
if the cells' dissolution did not
reverse, the molecules
reknit, the amino acids rekindle,
the Church will fall.

It was not as the flowers,
each soft Spring recurrent;
it was not as His Spirit in the
mouths and fuddled
eyes of the eleven apostles;
it was as His flesh: ours.

The same hinged thumbs and toes,
the same valved heart
that—pierced—died, withered,
paused, and then
regathered out of enduring Might
new strength to enclose.

Let us not mock God with
metaphor,
analogy, sidestepping,
transcendence;
making of the event a parable, a
sign painted in the
faded credulity of earlier ages:
let us walk through the door.

The stone is rolled back, not
papier-mâché,
not a stone in a story,
but the vast rock of materiality,
that in the slow grinding of time
will eclipse for each of us the wide
light of day.

And if we will have an angel at the
tomb,
make it a real angel,
weighty with Max Planck's
quanta, vivid with hair,
opaque in the dawn light, robed in
real linen
spun on a definite loom.

Let us not seek to make it less
monstrous,
for our own convenience, our own
sense of beauty,
lest, awakened in one unthinka-
ble hour, we are
embarrassed by the miracle,
and crushed by remonstrance.

John Updike, 1960.