

ST. LAURENCE CHURCH
THE PARISH EUCHARIST
SERVICE CELEBRATED IN CELTIC
STYLE

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER-

YEAR A 16.4.2023



The Zoom details for this service are:

Meeting ID: 457 244 0784

Passcode: 5i1UCa

## The sidesmen are Diana Ringer, Judy Darkins, Jean Elliott

#### Hymn

All creatures of our God and King Lift up your voice and with us sing O praise Him! Alleluia! Thou, burning sun with golden beam Thou, silver moon with softer gleam O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless And worship Him in humbleness O praise Him! Alleluia! Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son

And praise the Spirit, Three-in-One O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All the redeemed washed by His blood

Come and rejoice in His great love O praise Him! Alleluia! Christ has defeated every sin Cast all your burdens now on Him O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia!

He shall return in pow'r to reign Heaven and earth will join to say O praise Him! Alleluia! Then who shall fall on bended knee?All creatures of our God and King

O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia, Christ is risen

He is risen indeed, Alleluia

#### Welcome/The Gathering

Gather us in, the lost and the lonely, the broken and breaking, the tired and aching, who long for the nourishment found at your feast.

#### Gather us in

The done and the doubting, the wishing and wondering, the puzzled and pondering, who long for your company, found at your feast.

#### Gather us in

The proud and pretentious the sure and superior the never inferior who long for the levelling found at your feast

#### Gather us in

The bright and the bustling, the stirrers, the shakers, the kind laughter makers who long for the deeper joys found at your feast

#### Gather us in

From corner or limelight, from mansion or campsite, from fears and obsession, from tears and depression, from untold excesses, from treasured successes; to meet, to eat, to be given a seat; be joined to the vine; be offered new wine; become like the least; be found at the feast **Gather us in!** 

#### Confession

Create a clean heart within me, O God, so that it may become your chosen shelter and the resting place of the Holy Spirit. I take the cross upon me, over the tablet of my heart, and I beseech the living God of the universe, may the light of lights come to my dark hard heart so that I may live in the power of your love. Amen.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen** 

#### **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 Acts 2:42-47 Read by Charles Vernede

They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one's need. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favour with all the people. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

This is the word of the Lord.

#### Thanks be to God

#### **Gradual Hymn:**

#### Refrain:

Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth. He is the King of creation. *Refrain*.

Spread the good news o'er all the earth.

Jesus has died and has risen. <u>Refrain.</u>

We have been crucified with Christ. Now we shall live forever. *Refrain*. God has proclaimed the just reward: Life for all men, alleluia! *Refrain*.

Come, let us praise the living God, Joyfully sing to our Saviour. <u>Refrain.</u> <u>Gospel -</u>

The Lord be with you

#### And also with you

A reading from the gospel according to John

#### Glory to Christ our Lord

#### John 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them. "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. 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 vou." And when he had said this. he breathed on them and said to them. "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to 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 into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you."

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

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

#### Reflection

#### **Affirmation of Faith**

There is no other God, there never was and there never will be, than God the Father, unbegotten and without beginning, the Lord of the universe, as we have been taught. And His son Jesus Christ, whom we declare to have always been with the Father in a way that baffles description. He was made man, defeated death and received into heaven by the Father and given power over all names, in heaven, on earth and under the earth.

We believe in Him and look for His coming soon as a judge of all, treating everyone according to their faith and deeds.

He has poured out His Spirit on us in abundance, the gift and guarantee of eternal life.

We acknowledge and adore Him as one God in the Trinity of the Holy Name. Amen.

### The Prayers of the Church led by Robin Crowther

Everlasting God, as Jesus appeared in the locked room to show his disciples the beginning of a new world, draw us closer so that we, like Thomas, can examine the wounded hands and feet of Jesus in order to know and understand the depth of his love for us. Let us therefore approach the throne of God in confidence as we pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

## Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Gracious God, look down with love upon our Church here in Hawkhurst as day by day we struggle to be a body worthy of Jesus' name, an Easter People whose song Alleluia. Be with the Clerav. Wardens and as we focus on spreading the Good News and as we give thanks for the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

## Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Creator God, we raise before you our world, especially praying for peace in Ukraine, reconciliation and healing in all places of war, hatred and terrorism. We pray that the nations of this world may be united and subject to the rule of the Risen Christ, through whom and for whom all things were created. We pray for Queen Elizabeth; may her rule continue to be quided and influenced by the example set by your son who lives and reigns as King of Kings.

## Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Loving God, your Son remained with his disciples after his resurrection, teaching them to love all their neighbours as themselves. As his disciples we offer our prayers on behalf of this community where we are privileged to live and our friends and neighbours with whom we interact day by day.

## Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Almighty God, we pray for all who are sick and for all who are in hospital that they may be aware that the Lord is with them in their troubles. We pray for: Gillian Robinson, Robbie Robinson, Eleanor Ash, Colin White, David

Winston, Christian Jervis-Read, John Tanner, Jan Edwards, Jill Fitzpatrick, Geraldine Nurney Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Loving God, surround all who mourn this day with your continuing compassion. Do not let grief overwhelm those who are bereaved, or turn them against you. When grief seems never-ending, take them one step at a time along the journey of death and resurrection. We pray for those recently departed: Elizabeth Couvell, Margie Heldsinger, Cressida Jervis-Read. We remember those whose years' mind occur this month:

Thomas William Barker. Olive Fitzpatrick, Brenda Bladon, Jimmy Dunlop. Edwin Manser. Roger Smith. Richard Hunt. Fileen Dick Sheldon, Lydia Harttrup, Howarth. Elijah Towner. Sheila Radford, Rebecca Barker, Thomas Heady, Elsie Dodson, Anna Towner. Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer

Father God, you have called us to follow you. As you hear our prayers make us faithful in responding to your call. Merciful Father

Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.

So, in the presence of the Bread of Life who refused food for himself in order to nourish others, we deepen our devotion by praying His words:

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

#### Hymn

Lord, enthroned in heav'nly splendour, first-begotten from the dead,

Thou alone, our strong Defender, liftest up Thy people's head. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Jesus, true and living Bread!

Prince of Life, for us Thou livest, by Thy body souls are healed; Prince of Peace, Thy peace Thou givest, by Thy blood is pardon sealed.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Word of God in flesh revealed.

Paschal Lamb! Thine offering finished once for all when Thou wast slain, in its fullness undiminished shall forevermore remain.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Cleansing souls from ev'ry stain.

Great High Priest of our profession, through the oil Thou ent'redst in; by Thy mighty intercession grace and mercy Thou dost win. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Only sacrifice for sin.

Life-imparting heav'nly Manna, stricken Rock, with streaming side, heav'n and earth with loud hosanna worship Thee, the Lamb who died. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Ris'n, ascended, glorified!

#### **Prayer of Adoration**

Heaven is here, and earth and the space between them is thin. Distance may divide, but Christ's promise unites those bounded by time, those blessed by eternity. Let heaven be glad;

#### Let the whole earth cry GLORY!

Heaven is here, and earth, and the Church above and below is one. Peter is here, and Paul, Martha and all the Mary's, the saints from far back and those who left us not long ago. And only sight prevents us from seeing them, one with us on the other side.

Let heaven be glad

#### Let the whole earth cry GLORY!

Heaven is here, and earth, and the God who made them is present. The lamb, glorious on the throne, sits beside us; the Spirit of God, the Dove makes her resting place among us.

God inhales the breath of our prayers and spreads a table for our satisfaction.

Let heaven be glad.

#### Let the whole earth cry GLORY! Blessing and honour and glory and power be to our God for ever and ever.

#### Amen!

#### **The Invitation**

He was always the guest. In the homes of Peter and Jairus. Martha and Mary, Joanna and Susanna. At the meal tables of the wealthy where he pleaded the case of the poor, he was always the guest. Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people; welcoming the stranger, he was always the guest. But here, at this table. He is the host. Those who wish to serve Him must first be served by Him, those who wish to follow Him. must first be fed by Him. those who would wash His feet, must first let Him make them clean. For this is the table where God intends us to be nourished. This is the time when God can make us new. So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, a better life, a fairer world. Jesus Christ who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at His.

#### The Story

What we do here, we do in imitation of what Christ first did. To his followers in every age, Jesus gave an example and command rooted in the experience he shared with his disciples in an upstairs room in Jerusalem.

On the night when he was betrayed, as they were sitting at a meal, Jesus took a piece of bread and broke it, he gave it to the disciples saying 'This is my body. It is broken for you. Do this to remember me.'

Later after they had eaten, he took a cup of wine and said 'This cup is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Drink this all of you, to remember me.'

So now, we do as Jesus did. We take this bread and this wine, the produce of the earth and fruit of human labour. In these Jesus has promised to be present; through these, Christ can make us whole.

All that I am, all that I do, all that I'll ever have, I offer now to you.

Take and sanctify these gifts for your honour, Lord. Knowing that I love and serve you is enough reward.

All that I am, all that I do, all that I'll ever have I offer now to you.

#### **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give our thanks and praise

It is indeed right for you made us, and before you made us you made the world we inhabit, and before the world you made the eternal home in which, through Christ we have a place.

All that is spectacular, all that is plain have their origin in you; all that is lovely, all who are loving point to you as their fulfilment. And grateful as we are for the world we know and the universe beyond our ken, we particularly praise you, eternity cannot contain, for coming to earth and entering time in Jesus. For his life which informs our living, for his compassion which changes our hearts, for his clear speaking which contradicts our harmless generalities, for his disturbina presence, his innocent suffering, his fearless dying, his rising to life breathing forgiveness, we praise you and worship him. Here too our gratitude rises for the promise of the Holy Spirit, who even yet, even now, confronts us with your claims and attracts us to your goodness. Therefore we gladly join our voices to the song of the Church on earth and in heaven.

Holy, holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, Lord God almighty! And we lift our hearts before you as a token of our love: holy, holy, holy,

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, come and fill our hearts anew, Holy Spirit.

## And we lift our voice before you as a token of our love, Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit.

And now, lest we believe that our praise alone fulfils your purpose, we fall silent and remember him who came because words weren't enough. Setting our wisdom, our will, our words aside, emptying our hearts and bringing nothing in our hands, we yearn for the healing, the holding, the accepting, the forgiving which Christ alone can offer...

Merciful God, send now in kindness, your Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and wine and fill them with the fullness of Jesus. And let that same Spirit rest on us, converting us from the patterns of this passing world, until we conform to the shape of Him whose food we now share. **Amen.** 

Among friends, gathered round a table, Jesus took bread and broke it, and said, 'This is my body—broken for you'. Later he took a cup of wine and said 'This is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Take it, all of you, to remember me.' He whom the universe could not contain, is present to us in this bread. He who redeemed us and called us by name now meets us in this cup. So take this bread and this wine. In them God comes to us so that we may come to God.

Holy, holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, Lord God almighty! And we lift our hearts before you as a token of our love: holy, holy, holy,

## A Prayer as we join with those watching and worshipping with us on Zoom

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 Distribution of Communion

## The Chalice Bearers today are: Sandra Dreyer and Felicity Robinson

#### Communion Hymn

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!
His the sceptre, his the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph,
His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
Thunder like a mighty flood.
Jesus, out of every nation,
Has redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluia! Not as orphans Are we left in sorrow now; Alleluia! He is near us; Faith believes nor questions how. Though cloud from the sight received him When the forty days were o'er, Shall our hearts forget his promise, "I am with you evermore"? Alleluia! Heavenly High Priest, Here on earth our help, our stay: Alleluia! Hear the sinful Cry to you from day to day. Intercessor, friend of sinners, Earth's Redeemer, hear our plea, Where the songs of all the sinless Sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! King eternal, You the Lord of lords we own: Alleluia! born of Mary, Earth your footstool, heaven your throne:

You within the veil, have entered, Robed in flesh, our great High Priest:

By your Spirit, left us heavenward, In the Eucharistic feast!

#### **Post Communion Collect**

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen** 

#### **The Peace**

Christ who has nourished us, is our peace. Strangers and friends, male and female, old and young. He has

broken down the barriers to bind us to him and to each other. Having tasted His goodness, let us share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The Peace is shared.

In gratitude, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same.

Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us and encourage many by us. So Lord may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. Amen.

#### **Benediction**

The blessing of God
In our coming and going
The Peace of God
In our life and believing
The Love of God
Be with us all
Today until the end of time.
Amen.

On our heads and our homes

#### 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 ...

rest in peace. And rise in glory. Amen.

#### Hymn

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,

That saved a wretch; like me! I once was lost, but now am found. Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear.

And grace my fears relieved; How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed!

The Lord hath promised good to me, His word my hope secures; He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,

Bright shining as the sun, We've no less days to sing God's praise

Than when we first begun.

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 departed through the mercy of God,

#### **PARISH BREAKFAST**

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 Saturday April 29th Mary will describe how she came to have 'the best job ever'. It was all about understanding others and making friends across the divide of churches - Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Methodist, Lutheran, Baptist, Pentecostal and trying to understand what were those things that caused division, about discovering how we had so often misrepresented one another, how we had grown over the years further and further apart, and how, through the ecumenical movement, the new movement of the twentieth century, we might receive 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** 

NOTICES
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 SUN-

**DAY** every 3rd Sunday monthly. The next collection date will be Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. All contribution of non- perishables will be collected and donated to the Hawkhurst Food Bank.

#### A MESSAGE FROM FR. RODNEY

I would like to thank everyone for your Easter gift to me. It is appreciated very much.

Fr. Rodney

#### **AT YOUR SERVICE**

<u>Vicar:</u> 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

#### Planned / Regular Giving

We are very grateful for all the support we receive via prayers, the giving of one's time and talent as well as other gifting through planned and regular giving including the weekly collection.

The way that the Church will be collecting and accounting for regular and / or planned giving will be changing from the end of April 2023. This new process will also apply to those who give at the weekly service via the collection plate.

All Parish churches going forward will be required to use the newly established Parish Giving Scheme – PGS. This will help our Parish Church administrators hugely and will also make giving easier and more efficient.

What does this mean for you?

As an **existing** Planned / Regular giver – register with PGS (online, phone or giving form) and complete direct debit (with the simultaneous cancellation of existing standing order if one in place

**New** Planned / Regular giver – as above

Collection plate
Cash - no change
Weekly / Yellow envelopes –
we ask that you also use the
PGS process.

This process will also allow givers to review their Gift Aid nomination – this allows us to maximise the donations you make, as well as consider inflation linked increases in their giving.

More details are available in a pack to be found at the back of the church - this pack includes background, frequently asked questions and a giving form.

Here are some key contact details;

### St Laurence Church, Hawkhurst

Julian van Kan for any questions, help, guidance for form / application completion.

Tel: 07710 995 644

Email: julian@thevankans.com

Parish Giving Scheme Tel:

0333 002 1260 Website

www.parishgiving.org.uk

Canterbury Diocese Website:

www.canterburydiocese.org/