

**[H]** ST. LAURENCE CHURCH  
DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY  
CHANGED LIVES - CHANGING  
LIVES  
THE PARISH EUCHARIST  
SERVICE CELEBRATED IN CELTIC  
STYLE  
THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER  
TRINITY- YEAR A  
15.10.2023



The Zoom details for  
this service are:  
Meeting ID: 457 244 0784  
Passcode: 5i1UCA

The sidemen today are: Jean Elliott  
and Diana Ringer

**Introit Hymn**

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our  
eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the  
Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name  
we praise.

Unresting, unchanging, and silent as  
light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest  
in might;

thy justice like mountains high  
soaring above  
thy clouds, which are fountains of  
goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great  
and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of  
all;  
we blossom and flourish as leaves on  
the tree,  
and wither and perish but naught  
changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of  
light,  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling  
their sight;  
all praise we would render, O help us  
to see  
'tis only the splendour of light hideth  
thee.

**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**

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## **First Reading - Isaiah 25:1-9 read by Charles Vernede**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago. You have made the city a heap of rubble, the fortified town a ruin, the foreigners' stronghold a city no more; it will never be rebuilt. Therefore strong peoples will honor you; cities of ruthless nations will revere you. You have been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in their distress a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat. For the breath of the ruthless is like a storm driving against a wall and like the heat of the desert. You silence the uproar of foreigners; as heat is reduced by the shadow of a cloud, so the song of the ruthless is stilled. On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for

all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. The Lord has spoken. In that day they will say, “Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.”

This is the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

**Gradual Hymn:**

Hail the day that sees him rise,  
Alleluia! to his throne beyond the  
skies. Alleluia!

Christ, the Lamb for sinners given,  
Alleluia! enters now the highest  
heaven. Alleluia!

There for him high triumph waits;  
Alleluia! lift your heads, eternal  
gates. Alleluia!

He has conquered death and sin;  
Alleluia! take the King of glory in.  
Alleluia!

Highest heaven its Lord receives;  
Alleluia! yet he loves the earth he  
leaves. Alleluia!

Though returning to his throne,  
Alleluia!

still he calls us all his own.  
Alleluia!

Still for us he intercedes; Alleluia!  
his atoning death he pleads,  
Alleluia! near himself prepares our  
place, Alleluia!  
he the first fruits of our race.  
Alleluia!

There we shall with you remain,  
Alleluia! partners of your endless  
reign, Alleluia!  
see you with unclouded view,  
Alleluia! find our heaven of  
heavens in you. Alleluia!

**Gospel Reading - Matthew 22:1-14**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,**  
The kingdom of God is at hand.  
Repent and believe in the Gospel.  
**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,**

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you**

A reading from the gospel  
according to Matthew  
**Glory to Christ our Lord**

Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

“Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’

“But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

“Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless.

“Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

“For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

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 Xan Kite

Everlasting God, you promised that your presence would always go with your chosen people, the Jews, so we pray that we too may always find

you accompanying us on our life journey and that ultimately we would find your deep peace in our lives

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Loving God we hold the needs of our sisters and brothers as dearly as our own needs. Help us to love you with all our hearts and with all our souls and with all our minds and to love our neighbours as ourselves. With these commandments before us we offer our thanksgivings and our petitions on behalf of the church here in Hawkhurst and throughout the world.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Creator God, we pray for the peoples of the world that they may enjoy justice whether they be poor or rich, great or small. We pray that those who use violence and terror to bring about their desires and those who then so readily seek revenge following acts of terrorism may instead pursue all that makes for peace.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Father God, we thank you for our families and friends. We thank you for modern technology which enables us to hear and see them so easily and to keep in touch even

though separated by great distances. We especially pray at this time for those friends and family members as they enjoy a half-term break from schools and colleges.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Loving God, friend of those in need, your Son Jesus has loosened our burdens and healed our spirits. We lift before you for those still burdened, those seeking healing, those in need within the church and the world. We pray for Robbie Robinson, Eleanor Ash, David Winston, Christian Jervis-Read, Jan Edwards, Jill Fitzpatrick, Nigel Lemon, Ray Wicks, Hilary Deller, Georgie Whitaker, Helen Whitaker.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, your Son Jesus was moved to tears at the grave of Lazarus his friend. Look with compassion on those bereaved and grieving at the loss of a loved one; give to their troubled hearts the light of hope and strengthen in all of us the gift of faith, in Jesus Christ our Lord. We pray for those recently departed: Don Buckle

And all those whose years' mind occur this month: Michelle Berge, Mary Howarth, Raymond John

Denney, John Velvick, Tim Morton, Janusz Kent, Janina Misayat, Christopher Denne, Pat Bassant, Philip Sheldon, Arthur Horner, Patricia Travers, Janet Attwood, Alan Collins, Dorothy Heady  
Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Faithful God, at the start of this new week and recognising your trust in us to live and preach the Gospel make us always more ready to please you rather than to seek the praise of the secular world

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**

### **Offertory Hymn**

Lord, teach us how to pray aright with reverence and with fear.  
Tho' dust and ashes in Your sight, we may, we must draw near.

We perish if we cease from prayer;  
O, grant us pow'r to pray.  
And when to meet You we prepare,  
Lord, meet us on our way.

Give deep humility; the sense of godly sorrow give;  
a strong desire with confidence, to hear Your voice and live;

Faith in the only sacrifice that can for sin atone;  
to cast our hopes, to fix our eyes on Christ, on Christ alone.

Give these, and then Your will be done;  
thus strengthened with all might, we, thro' Your Spirit and Your Son, shall pray, and pray aright.

### **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, whom  
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 disturbing

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.**

**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, holy.**

### **Prayer of Humble Access**

**We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table; but you are the same Lord whose nature is always**

**to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

### **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**

***(Please join in when you are ready)***

**Lord, who at thy first Eucharist did pray**

That all thy Church might be  
forever one,  
Grant us at ev'ry Eucharist to say  
With longing heart and soul, "Thy  
will be done."  
O may we all one bread, one body  
be,  
Through this blest Sacrament of  
Unity.

For all thy Church, O Lord, we  
intercede;  
Make thou our sad divisions soon to  
cease;  
Draw us the nearer each, to each we  
plead,  
By drawing all to thee, O Prince of  
Peace;  
Thus may we all one bread, one  
body be,  
Through this blest Sacrament of  
Unity.

We pray thee, too, for wanderers  
from thy fold;  
O bring them back, Good Shepherd  
of the sheep,  
Back to the faith which saints  
believed of old,  
Back to the Church which still that  
faith doth keep;  
Soon may we all one bread, one  
body be,  
Through this blest Sacrament of  
Unity.

So, Lord, at length when  
sacraments shall cease,

May we be one with all thy Church  
above,  
One with thy saints in one unbroken  
peace,  
One with thy saints in one  
unbounded love;  
More blessed still in peace and love  
to be  
One with the Trinity in Unity.

### **Post Communion Collect**

Give thanks to the Lord for God is  
gracious  
**God's mercy endures for ever.**

**Holy and blessed God, you have  
fed us with the body and blood of  
your Son and filled us with your  
Holy Spirit: may we honour you,  
not only with our lips but in lives  
dedicated to the service of Jesus  
Christ our Lord. 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.**

### **The Blessing of the Newly-Refurbished Kitchen**

**Prayer:** When Christ took flesh he made his home with us. Let us now pray that he will enter this kitchen and bless it with his presence. May he always be here among us; may he nurture our love for each other, share in our joys, and comfort us in our sorrows. We pray this in the name of Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

**Reading:** “You are God’s chosen ones. He loves you. You should be clothed in sincere compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts. Be thankful. Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Never say or do anything except in the name of

the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Col 3: 12-17)

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you**

**The kitchen is blessed:** O God, you fill the hungry with good things. Send your blessing on this kitchen and on all those who will work in this kitchen, and make us ever thankful for our daily bread.

The newly refurbished kitchen is sprinkled with holy water:

**Final prayer:** Be our shelter, O Lord, when we worship you and enjoy refreshment and fellowship in this church. Be our companion when we are away, and our welcome guest when we return. And at last receive us into the dwelling place you have prepared for us in your Father’s house, where you live forever and ever. **Amen.**

### **Benediction**

On our heads and our homes

**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.**

### **The Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you,

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you his peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## **Notices**

### **Hymn**

O what their joy and their glory must be,  
those endless sabbaths the blessed ones see;  
crown for the valiant, to weary ones rest;  
God shall be all, and in all ever blest.

What are the Monarch, his court,  
and his throne?  
what are the peace and the joy that they own?

O that the blest ones, who in it have share,  
all that they feel could as fully declare.

Truly, Jerusalem name we that shore,  
'Vision of Peace,' that brings joy evermore.  
Wish and fulfilment can severed be ne'er,  
nor the thing prayed for come short of the prayer.

There, where no troubles distraction can bring,  
we the sweet anthems of Sion shall sing,  
while for thy grace, Lord, their voices of praise  
thy blessed people eternally raise.

There dawns no sabbath, no sabbath is o'er,  
those sabbath-keepers have one evermore;  
one and unending is that triumph-song  
which to the angels and us shall belong.

Now in the meanwhile, with hearts raised on high,  
we for that country must yearn and must sigh;  
seeking Jerusalem, dear native land,  
through our long exile on Babylon's strand.

Low before him with our praises we fall,  
of whom, and in whom, and through whom are all:  
of whom, the Father; and in whom, the Son;  
through whom, the Spirit, with them ever One.

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, rest in peace. **And rise in glory. Amen.**

**We listen to the Organ Voluntary  
Bach - Little C Major Prelude**

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**The week ahead - 15th. October to  
22nd. October 2023**

15 Teresa of Avila, Teacher of the Faith, 1582

16 Nicholas Ridley, Bishop of London, and Hugh Latimer, Bishop of Worcester, Reformation Martyrs, 1555

17 Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, Martyr, c.107

18 Luke the Evangelist

19 Henry Martyn, Translator of the Scriptures, Missionary in India and Persia, 1812

**O GOD OF ALL JUSTICE AND PEACE, WE CRY OUT TO YOU IN THE MIDST OF THE PAIN AND TRAUMA OF VIOLENCE AND FEAR WHICH PREVAILS IN THE HOLY LAND.**

**BE WITH THOSE WHO NEED YOU IN THESE DAYS OF SUFFERING; WE PRAY FOR PEOPLE OF ALL FAITHS – JEWS, MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS AND FOR ALL PEOPLE OF THE LAND.**

**WHILE WE PRAY TO YOU, O LORD, FOR AN END TO VIOLENCE AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE, WE ALSO CALL FOR YOU TO BRING JUSTICE AND EQUITY TO THE PEOPLES.**

**GUIDE US INTO YOUR KINGDOM WHERE ALL PEOPLE ARE TREATED WITH DIGNITY AND HONOUR AS YOUR CHILDREN – FOR TO ALL OF US, YOU ARE OUR HEAVENLY FATHER.**

**IN JESUS' NAME WE PRAY,  
AMEN.**

**THE ARCHBISHOP OF JERUSALEM,  
HOSAM NAOUM**

## NOTICES

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

**PARISH GIVING SCHEME (PGS)** – please be reminded that the way the Church will be collecting and accounting for regular and / or planned giving changed from the end of April 2023. Information packs are available at the side of the church. Your participation in the new scheme is very much encouraged. Please speak to Mr Julian van Kan for further information.

**INSTALLATION OF THE NEW VICAR OF CRANBROOK** – You may have recently read that Richard King has been appointed the new Vicar for St Dunstan's Church and Cranbrook. Richard is currently Rector of St John the Evangelist, in Edmonton, Canada and along with his wife Shelly will arrive in the UK in October.

Reverend Richard will be Installed by Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin in St Dunstan's Church, Cranbrook (TN17 3HA) on **Wednesday, 25th October at 7.00pm**. You are very warmly invited to attend this joyous occasion. Refreshments will be provided.

**TESCO COMMUNITY PLEDGE** – five chances to win £1,000 with Tesco and *Easyfundraising*. Sign up

to *Easyfundraising* and encourage your church community as your supporters. Every time they shop online with Tesco, church enters the prize draw to win £1,000. Sign up today!



### **Bodiam Concert Band**

invites you to a

#### **Friends & Families Concert**

**Monday, 16th October, 7.30pm**  
**St Laurence Church, The Moor,**  
**Hawkhurst, TN18 4RS**

An informal evening of wonderful music ranging from *Holst's First Suite for Band* and the *Radetsky March* by *Johann Strauss Sr* to *Mary Poppins* and *Stevie Wonder's You are the Sunshine of my Life*—and much more.

The programme also includes a chance to hear the different voices of the band performing alone or in small sectional ensembles.

Feel free to wander round during the performance to enjoy the varying acoustics of the church—it is a lovely place to perform. The ensembles will be located in different areas, too.

*The seating will be cabaret-style so do bring your own refreshments—and if possible your re-usable coffee cup as we'll be providing tea and coffee during the intervals. We look forward to welcoming you on 16th! Entry is free.*

***The Human Journey - A New Small Group Course in the Parish of St. Laurence, Hawkhurst, for November 2023 and January 2024***

We all have questions about health: Will my child be healthy? What if I get cancer? Why do I sometimes feel so down? What about dementia in my later years?

Today we see the health needs of different countries in more details than ever before. How are we to be good neighbours in the global community? Almost every day brings reports of new advances in medical technology. But how can we decide whether it's right to use them?

The Human Journey sets out a framework for thinking about these issues biblically. In an ever-changing world, the Bible's timeless truths offer a firm foundation to engage with health-related questions. Above all, our questions about health and wellbeing need to be seen in the greater context of God's design for humanity, the universe and everything - God's plan to unite all things under Jesus Christ.

The book issued accompanies an eight-part course which aims to equip Christians to think biblically and theologically about health and to

encourage better incorporation of healthcare expertise into church life and ministry. It can be read alone, but will be most useful explored and discussed in the context of the course.

***The Course is put together by the Christian Medical Fellowship.***

**Sign-up sheet on the table at the side of the church if you are interested.**

**AT YOUR SERVICE**

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