

St. Laurence Parish Church,
Hawkhurst
in the Diocese of Canterbury
Changed Lives - Changing
Lives
The Third Sunday of Advent
- 14.12.2025

A Service to give thanks for
the Ministry of
The Revd. Canon. Rodney
Dreyer on his retirement as
Vicar of Hawkhurst.

The Sidesmen today are
Diana Ringer , Kate Lagden,
Anne Wheelhouse

We welcome Revd. Canon
Bruce Ruddock, Chaplain to
the King,
who is our preacher this
morning.

A very warm welcome to all
who have joined us from
near and far for this special
celebration

*This service will be live
streamed. Your image will be
captured on CCTV as a
participant in the liturgy.*

*Please tell a sidesman if you
do not wish to be filmed in
order to be seated in a
position out of the view of the
camera.*

The You Tube link is:
[https://www.youtube.com/@St
LaurenceChurchHawkhurst](https://www.youtube.com/@StLaurenceChurchHawkhurst)

As we gather and prepare to
join in worship, music is played
on the organ.

Welcome

Entrance Hymn:

Hark! a herald voice is
calling:

'Christ is nigh,' it seems to
say;

'Cast away the dreams of
darkness,

O ye children of the day!'

Startled at the solemn
warning,

Let the earth-bound soul
arise;

Christ, her Sun, all sloth
dispelling,

Shines upon the morning
skies.

Lo! the Lamb, so long
expected,

Comes with pardon down
from heaven;

Let us haste, with tears of
sorrow,

One and all to be forgiven;

So when next he comes with
glory,

Wrapping all the earth in fear,
May he then as our defender
Of the clouds of heaven
appear.

Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
To the Father and the Son,
With the co-eternal Spirit,
While unending ages run.
Amen.

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

The third candle of Advent is the Candle of Joy. It reminds of the joy that Mary felt when the angel Gabriel told her that a special child would be born to her – a child who would save and deliver his people.

God wants us all to have joy. The angel who announced to the shepherds that Jesus had been born told them: “Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news of a great joy for all people – for to you is born this day, in the City of David, a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”

We light this candle to remember that Christ brings the promise of a new life – a life in which the blind receive sight, the lame walk, and the prisoners are set free. We light it to remember that He is the bringer of true and everlasting joy. We light this candle today to remind us that he brings Joy to all who trust in him.

LET US PRAY – Loving God, we thank you for the joy you bring us. Help us prepare our hearts for this gift. Bless our worship. Help us to hear and to do your word. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem. **Amen.** The Third Candle is lit.

In the Name of God: Father,
Son and the Holy Spirit .
Amen.

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Collect for Purity

Almighty God to whom all hearts are open all desires known and from whom no secrets are hid cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen

Penitence

Seek the Lord while he may be found,
Call upon him while he is near.

Let the wicked abandon their ways
And the unrighteous their thoughts.

Turn back to the Lord, who will have mercy;

To our God who will richly pardon.

A time of silence and self-examination is kept.

Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from your sins, and restore you in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

The Collect of the Day

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so

prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Prayer before receiving the Word of God — Before we read, we pray together
**Eternal God, in the reading of the Scriptures, may your Word be heard;
In the meditations of our hearts, may your Word be known; and
In the faithfulness of our lives, may your Word be shown. Amen.**

First Reading read by Anne Wheelhouse

A reading from the letter of James, Chapter five, beginning at verse seven

Be patient, brothers and sisters,
until the coming of the Lord.
See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains.
You too must be patient.
Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.
Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged. Behold, the Judge is standing before the gates.
Take as an example of hardship and patience, brothers and sisters, the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn

Bless'd are the pure in heart,

For they shall see our God;
The secret of the Lord is theirs,
Their heart is Christ's abode.

The Lord, who left the heavens,
Our life and peace to bring,
To dwell in lowliness with men,
Their pattern and their King.

He to the lowly soul
Doth still Himself impart,
And for His dwelling and His throne
Chooseth the pure in heart.

Lord, we Thy presence seek;
May ours this blessing be;
Give us a pure and lowly heart,
A temple meet for Thee.

Alleluia, Alleluia,, Alleluia,
Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight, and all
flesh shall see the salvation of
God.
Alleluia, Alleluia,, Alleluia,

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

A reading from the Holy Gospel
according to Matthew Chapter

eleven beginning at the second
verse

Glory to Christ our Lord

When John the Baptist heard in
prison of the works of the
Christ, he sent his disciples to
Jesus with this question, "Are
you the one who is to come, or
should we look for another?"

Jesus said to them in reply,
"Go and tell John what you
hear and see: the blind regain
their sight, the lame walk, lep-
ers are cleansed, the deaf
hear, the dead are raised, and
the poor have the good news
proclaimed to them. And
blessed is the one who takes
no offence at me."

As they were going off, Jesus
began to speak to the crowds
about John, "What did you go
out to the desert to see? A reed
swayed by the wind? Then
what did you go out to see?
Someone dressed in fine cloth-
ing? Those who wear fine
clothing are in royal palaces.
Then why did you go out? To
see a prophet? Yes, I tell you,

and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you. Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

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

Sermon: by the Revd. Canon
Bruce Ruddock, Chaplain to
the King

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord,
Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the
Father,**

**God from God, Light from
Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were
made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy
Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was
crucified under Pontius
Pilate;
he suffered death and was
buried.**

**On the third day he rose
again
in accordance with the
Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right
hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the
dead,
and his kingdom will have no
end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,**

who proceeds from the
Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the
Son is worshipped and
glorified,
who has spoken through the
prophets.

We believe in one holy
catholic and apostolic
Church.

We acknowledge one
baptism for the forgiveness
of sins.

We look for the resurrection
of the dead,
and the life of the world to
come.

Amen.

The Prayers of the Church **led by Stephen Ringer**

As we prepare our hearts to
celebrate the birth of Christ let
us turn to the Father with our
prayers and petitions:

Almighty God, you sent your
servant John the Baptist to
prepare your people to
welcome the Messiah. Inspire
all who are stewards of your
truth, to turn our disobedient

hearts to you, so that when
Christ comes again to be our
judge we may stand with
confidence before his glory.

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

Faithful God we pray for your
continuing blessing to be upon
this congregation and parish,
and upon the Church in this
Diocese and throughout the
world.

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

We pray for Rose, Bishop of
Dover and for Sarah,
Archbishop of Canterbury
Elect. We pray that your joy
and your love will flow freely in
and through them and that they
might ever be holy examples of
your love in action.

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

We give you grateful thanks for
the ministry of Fr. Rodney and
Sandra and their family
amongst us over the years. We
pray that they may have a
restful and prayerful retirement

and that all things belonging to the Holy Spirit may continue to live and grow in them.

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

We ask God to bring peace to those places affected by war, violence and civil unrest, and to guide the hearts and minds of the leaders and politicians whose actions and decisions affect those who live there.

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

As we move into the darker part of the year, we pray for farmers, asking God to sustain and support them through the coming months. We pray for all the creatures that share our world, asking God to make us good custodians of our precious planet.

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

We pray for the sick, the suffering, the homeless and the hungry, that we may always recognise the Christ who lives in them and share

with them the gifts that God has given to us. We pray for Eleanor Ash, David Winstone, John Tanner, Irene Bow, Brian Elliott, Jill Fitzpatrick, Keith Brown, Thomas Cox, Gwen Brown, Peter Duffy, Matt, Jill, Carol, Dido Robson, Hannah, Chris Bodeen, Val, Jane and Jeremy, Val Mansell.

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

We pray for those whose hearts have been saddened by the death of someone close and dear to them, for members of our families who have died. We pray for the newly presented servants of God.

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

We pray for those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time: Michael Roger Fisher-Barham, David Colvin, Alice Mary Bennett, Diana Jones, Leslie Richardson, John Heady, Herbert Fautly, Matthew Liggett, Elizabeth Jones, George Longley, Millicent But-

ler, Lilian Guest, Sarah Scrivener, Mark Ryan, Sylvia Doreen Gould, Audrey Fautly, Irene Reed, Nancy Bennett, Mary Alice Hammonds, Charles Newcomb, Fergus Gask, Gerald Larkin, Ignace Van Kan, Barbara Kirby, Victoria Wells, Mary Kilby, John Hunt, Ida Levett, Peter Scoones, Joyce Clark, Barbara Elgar, Neville Highwood, Ronald Catt, Raymond Collins, Dennis Vinall, Derek Christie, David Hyde, Sheila Cox, Anne Maugham, Roy Cooper, Charles Henry Collingwood, Kiora Andrew Hill, Peter Penfold.

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

In silence we bring to Almighty God our own particular prayers

God of peace, receive our prayers and strengthen our resolve to live as your people: faithful, compassionate, and courageous.

Merciful Father

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

The Peace Once we were far off, but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near through the shedding of Christ's blood, for he is our peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you.

Offertory Hymn

O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.***

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go.

Refrain

O come, O come, great Lord of
might,

who to your tribes on Sinai's
height
in ancient times did give the
law
in cloud and majesty and awe.
Refrain

O come, O Branch of Jesse's
stem,
unto your own and rescue
them!
From depths of hell your
people save,
and give them victory o'er the
grave. *Refrain*

O come, O Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly
home.
Make safe for us the
heavenward road
and bar the way to death's
abode. *Refrain*

O come, O Bright and Morning
Star,
and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night
and turn our darkness into
light. *Refrain*

O come, O King of nations,
bind

in one the hearts of all
mankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease
and be yourself our King of
Peace. *Refrain*

THE LITURGY OF THE SAC- RAMENT

Yours, Lord, is the greatness,
the power,
the glory, the splendour, and
the majesty;
for everything in heaven and
on earth is yours.

**All things come from you,
and of your own do we give
you.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of
all creation: through your good-
ness we have this bread to of-
fer, which earth has given and
human hands have made. It
will become for us the bread of
life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of
all creation: through your good-
ness we have this wine to offer,

fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.

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 thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your

Son our Lord. For he is your living Word; through him you have created all things from the beginning, and formed us in your own image. Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin, giving him to be born of a woman and to die upon the cross; you raised him from the dead and exalted him to your right hand on high. Through him you have sent upon us your holy and life-giving Spirit, and made us a people for your own possession.

And now we give you thanks because within the royal priesthood of your Church you ordain ministers to proclaim the word of God, to care for your people and to celebrate the sacraments of the new covenant.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven

and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As Christ has taught us we are bold to say:

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.

The Fraction

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

The Agnus Dei

We sing together

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

A Prayer for those joining us on Youtube 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.

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 manifold and great mercies.

We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But you are the same Lord, whose property 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.

Jesus 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.

The Distribution of Communion

The Chalice bearers today are:
Sandra Dreyer, Peter Hodges,
Felicity Robinson, Peggy Stone

Communion Hymns

Lord Jesus Christ
You have come to us
You are one with us
Mary's Son
Cleansing our souls from all their sin
Pouring Your love and goodness in
Jesus, our love for you we sing
Living Lord

Lord Jesus Christ
Now and every day
Teach us how to pray
Son of God
You have commanded us to do
This in remembrance Lord of you
Into our lives your power breaks through
Living Lord

Lord Jesus Christ
You have come to us
Born as one with us
Mary's Son
Led out to die on Calvary
Risen from death to set us free
Living Lord Jesus, help us see
You are Lord

Lord Jesus Christ
I would come to you
live my life for you
Son of God
All your commands I know are
true
Your many gifts will make me
new
Into my life your power breaks
through
Living Lord

We are marching in the light of
God.
We are marching in the light of
God.
We are marching in the light of
God.
We are marching in the light of
God.
We are marching, marching,
We are marching, oh ohhh,
We are marching in the light of
God.
We are marching, marching,
We are marching, oh ohhh,
We are marching in the light of
God.

We are living in the love of
God.

We are living in the love of
God.
We are living in the love of
God.
We are living in the love of
God.
We are living, living,
We are living, oh ohhh,
We are living in the love of
God.
We are living, living,
We are living, oh ohhh,
We are living in the love of
God.

We are moving in the power of
God.
We are moving in the power of
God.
We are moving in the power of
God.
We are moving in the power of
God.
We are moving, moving,
We are moving, oh ohhh,
We are moving in the power of
God.
We are moving, moving,
We are moving, oh ohhh,
We are moving in the power of
God.

We are dancing in the joy of
God.
We are dancing in the joy of
God.

We are dancing in the joy of God.

We are dancing in the joy of God.

We are dancing, dancing,
We are dancing, oh ohhh,
We are dancing in the joy of God.

We are dancing, dancing,
We are dancing, oh ohhh,
We are dancing in the joy of God.

Post - Communion Prayers

Give thanks to the Lord for he is gracious

His mercy endures for ever.

We give you thanks, O Lord,
for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.
Amen.

Father almighty we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice in Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out into the world in the power of the Holy Spirit to live and work

**to your praise and glory.
Amen**

Notices

The Blessing

May God himself, the God of peace, make you perfect and holy, and keep you safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; and the blessing ...

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen**

Hymn

Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and

sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the
tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his pas-
sion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture, with what
rapture, with what rapture,
gaze we on those glorious
scars!

Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and
glory,
claim the kingdom for thine
own:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Thou shalt reign and thou
alone.

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God

May the divine assistance re-
main 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.**

Organ Voluntary - Please re-
main seated for the organ vol-
untary

Final Offering - Fr. Rodney

AT YOUR SERVICE

Vicar (until 16th December):

The Revd. Canon Rodney
Dreyer
01580 754459

Licensed Parish Reader

Mr. Stephen Ringer
01580 879710

Authorised Lay Minister

Dr. Julie Hammonds
07587 470678

Churchwardens

Claire Roberts
01580 754374
Liz Hatcher
01580 712099

Assistants

Lydeke Klein
01580 493732
Ali Jones
01580 755705

Safeguarding:

Mrs Jane Cooper
07825 044877

Organists:

Dr. Charlotte O' Neill
01580 753817
Mr. Richard O'Neill
01580 753817

NOTICES

Each Sunday in Advent we will hear one of the Great 'O' Antiphons - traditionally used in the seven days preceding Christmas Day during Vespers. The text gives a title of Christ; one of His attributes mentioned in scripture. Advent 3 we hear O Adonai - O Lord and leader of Israel.

Wednesday Eucharist at
Bowles Lodge ~ 10.00a.m.
Please do join us.

Compline - We celebrate a
compline service on zoom

each Wednesday at 6.00pm.
Please feel free to join us if you can.

The Zoom link is: Meeting ID:
457 244 0784 Passcode:
5i1Uca

Advent Giving Tree – The Advent Giving Tree for Sightsavers International is now at the back of the church. Please hang your gift on the tree and it will be replaced with a star. Sightsavers treat eye conditions such as **cataracts** and tackle debilitating **diseases**, many of which cause sight loss.

Village Carol Service – 6pm
on Sunday 21st December.
After the service refreshments will be served. We would love to receive donations of mince pies to serve with the mulled wine.

Christmas Message Tree – the children have made a large tree for seasonal messages. It is standing in their corner with a supply of labels for your message. You may wish to consider writing your Christmas message on

their tree and donating to charity, instead of purchasing Christmas cards.

Easyfundraising

St Laurence Church is registered with easyfundraising, which means you can help us for FREE. Over 8,000 retailers will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! All you need to do is sign up and remember to use easyfundraising whenever you shop online. It's easy and completely FREE! These donations really mount up, so please sign up to support us at: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stlaurence-hawkhurst/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_content=email-1

Collection and Giving - A collection will be taken during this service. Please remember to use a Gift Aid envelope if you are a taxpayer. Also you may support the work of St Laurence Church by donating at the collection box or the online terminal at the exit.



CHRISTMAS 2025

Sunday 14th 10am

Fr. Rodney's Farewell Eucharist

Sunday 21st 6pm

Village Carol Service

Christmas Eve Wednesday 24th 4.30pm

Crib Service – children to come dressed as a Nativity character.
There will be a live donkey at this service.

Christmas Eve Wednesday 24th 11.30pm

Midnight Mass

Christmas Day Thursday 25th 8am

Holy Communion

Christmas Day Thursday 25th 10am

Family Service with Holy Communion