



**ST. LAURENCE CHURCH  
FAMILY COMMUNION  
EASTER SUNDAY  
5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026**



**Rt Rev Rose Hudson-  
Wilkin, Bishop of Dover**

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*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/@StLa  
urenceChurchHawkhurst](https://www.youtube.com/@StLaurenceChurchHawkhurst)

We welcome Bishop Rose today  
as celebrant and preacher.

Sidesmen: Anne Wheelhouse  
and Diana Hunt.  
Reader: Rachel Elliott  
Intercessions: Liz Hatcher  
Chalice: Norma Crowe and  
Stephen Crowe

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. All  
**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.  
All **Amen.**

**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**

*Bishop Rose 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**

First Reading Acts 10 v 34, 37-43

Peter proceeded to speak and said: "You know what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree.

This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who

believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

Second Reading Colossians 3 v 1-4

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

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

HYMN

The day of resurrection! Earth,  
tell it out abroad;  
The Passover of triumph, 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 list'ning to his accents, may  
hear so calm and plain

His own 'All hail' and, hearing,  
may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heav'ns be joyful,  
and earth her song begin,  
The round world keep high  
triumph, and all that is therein;  
Let all things, seen and unseen,  
their notes of gladness blend,  
For Christ the Lord hath risen,  
our joy that hath no end.

### **THE GOSPEL READING**

The Lord be with you

**And also with you.**

A reading from the Holy Gospel  
according to John, Chapter 20  
beginning at the first verse  
**Glory to you O Lord**

Early on the first day of the week,  
while it was still dark, Mary  
Magdalene went to the tomb and  
saw that the stone had been  
removed from the entrance. So  
she came running to Simon Peter  
and the other disciple, the one  
Jesus loved, and said, "They  
have taken the Lord out of the  
tomb, and we don't know where  
they have put him!"

So Peter and the other disciple  
started for the tomb. Both were  
running, but the other disciple  
outran Peter and reached the  
tomb first. He bent over and  
looked in at the strips of linen

lying there but did not go in.  
Then Simon Peter came along  
behind him and went straight into  
the tomb. He saw the strips of  
linen lying there, as well as the  
cloth that had been wrapped  
around Jesus' head. The cloth  
was still lying in its place,  
separate from the linen. Finally  
the other disciple, who had  
reached the tomb first, also went  
inside. He saw and believed.  
(They still did not understand  
from Scripture that Jesus had to  
rise from the dead.)

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

### **REFLECTION**

#### **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**

Bishop Rose 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.

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

## **PRAYERS**

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 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 for; Eleanor Ash, David Winstone, John Tanner, Irene Bow, Brian Elliott, Jill Fitzpatrick, Thomas Cox, Gwen Brown, Jill, Carol, Dido Robson, Hannah, Chris Bodeen, Val, Jane and Jeremy, Val Manser, Chris Bell, Rebekah Mary, Keith Brown and Rod Simpson.

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 for the recently departed; Rosemary Mayhew.

We pray 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 Harttrup, Dick Howarth, Elijah Towner, Sheila Radford, Rebecca Barker, Thomas Heady, Elsie Dodson, John Roberts, Anna Towner, Winifred French, Roy Anthony Melham, David Colquhoun, Judy Scanlan, Thelma Mahon, Eileen Burnett.

We pray to the Father. **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*

The strife is o'er, the battle done;

Now is the Victor's triumph won;  
O let the song of praise be sung:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Death's mightiest pow'rs have  
done their worst,  
And Jesus hath his foes  
dispersed;  
Let shouts of praise and joy  
outburst:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

On the third morn he rose again  
Glorious in majesty to reign;  
O let us swell the joyful strain:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Lord, by the stripes which  
wounded thee  
From death's dread sting thy  
servants free,  
That we may live, and sing to  
thee:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all  
creation:  
through your goodness we have  
this bread to offer, 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 goodness we have  
this wine to offer, fruit of the vine  
and work of human hands.  
It will become our spiritual drink.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Pray, my sisters and brothers,  
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.**

Father, we give you thanks and  
praise  
through your beloved Son Jesus  
Christ,  
your living Word,  
through whom you have created  
all things;  
who was sent by you in your  
great goodness  
to be our Saviour.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit  
he took flesh;

as your Son, born of the blessed  
Virgin,  
he lived on earth and went about  
among us;  
he opened wide his arms for us  
on the cross;  
he put an end to death by dying  
for us;  
and revealed the resurrection by  
rising to new life;  
so he fulfilled your will  
and won for you a holy people.

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, hosanna, hosanna  
in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in  
the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna  
in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed,  
the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your  
Holy Spirit,

and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood  
of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
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.  
Great is the Mystery of Faith:

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

And so, Father,  
calling to mind his death on the  
cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once  
for the sins  
of the whole world;

rejoicing in his mighty  
resurrection  
and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in  
glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of  
our redemption.  
As we offer you this our sacrifice  
of praise  
and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread  
and this cup  
and we thank you for counting  
us worthy  
to stand in your presence and  
serve you.  
Send the Holy Spirit on your  
people  
and gather into one in your  
kingdom  
all who share this one bread and  
one cup,  
so that we, in the company of all  
the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for  
ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;  
by whom, and with whom, and in  
whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours,  
almighty Father,  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**  
Let us pray with confidence as  
our Saviour has  
taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed by 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.**

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.**

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

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.**

### 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.**

Draw near with faith.  
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

### WE SHARE IN HOLY COMMUNION

#### Hymn during Communion

Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,  
Wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain;  
Love lives again, that with the dead has been;  
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

In the grave they laid him, Love by hatred slain,  
Thinking that never he would wake again,  
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:  
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,  
He that for three days in the grave had lain;  
Quick from the dead, my risen Lord is seen:  
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

When our hearts are wintry,  
grieving or in pain,  
Thy touch can call us back to life  
again;  
Fields of our hearts, that dead  
and bare have been:  
Love is come again, like wheat  
that springeth green.

### **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.

All **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

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**Almighty God,  
We thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood  
of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our  
souls and bodies to be a  
living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of  
your Spirit to live and work  
to your praise and glory.  
Amen.**

### **NOTICES and BANNS**

#### **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**

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

## **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 departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **And rise in glory. Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

## **Prayer for the Vacancy at St Laurence**

Loving God, during this time of vacancy, we give thanks for your church in our community, for the many who work together and worship you faithfully.

Help us to stay true to our mission prayer for growth in your church and, as we serve you, may we see lives radically transformed.

Grant wisdom and discernment to those who are to choose a new vicar for this parish, that we may welcome the priest you have prepared for us, to lead us with joy and loving obedience to your Son, Jesus Christ.

**Amen**

## **NOTICES**

**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.

**We are most grateful** to Bishop Rose for celebrating our Easter Services with us, here at St Laurence Church, Hawkhurst. Thank you.

**Thank you** to all those who have prepared the Church for Easter. The flower arrangements are beautiful and the churchyard is

looking lovely in the spring sunshine.

## **Wednesday Morning Prayer**

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

## **Compline**

Wednesday at 6.00pm on Zoom.  
Please feel free to join us if you can. The Zoom link is:  
Meeting ID: 880 4785 4233  
Passcode: 798527

## **Electoral Roll Forms**

If you are not on the Electoral Roll and would like to have your name included, please speak to Stephen Ringer. Electoral Roll forms **do not** need to be renewed this year as they were done in 2025.

If you were given a form last week please return it as soon as possible.

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**

This will be held on Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup> after the 10am service.

## **Easyfundraising**

St Laurence Church is registered with easyfundraising. Please sign up to support us at: <https://www.easyfundrais->

ing.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 use a Gift Aid envelope if you are a taxpayer. You may support our work by donating through the online terminal at the exit. Additionally you may give to St Laurence Church via the QR code below.



### **Parish Giving Scheme**

St. Laurence is also a member of the Parish Giving Scheme. This enables you to give to St. Laurence monthly, quarterly or annually by Direct Debit. Please go to [www.parishgiving.org.uk](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk) Donations can be increased by Gift Aid, adding 25%.

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## **Forthcoming Services**

### **12th April**

8.00am BCP Holy Communion  
10.00am Eucharist  
Rev. Judy Darkins

### **19th April**

8.00am BCP Holy Communion  
10.00am Celtic Service  
Rev. Vicki Young

### **26th April**

8.00am Morning Prayer  
Led by Stephen Ringer  
10.00am Eucharist  
Bishop David Bannerman

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April is Loaves and Fishes Sunday. Please bring non-perishable gifts for the foodbank and place in the box under the table in church.**

**Please save the following dates – more details to follow.**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
Tues 14 April	Presentation about a new vicar for Hawkhurst @ 7.30 pm in the church.
Sat 18 April	Presentation about a new vicar for Hawkhurst @ 9.30 am in the church.
Sat 18 April	Coffee, Cake and Chat from 10am to 12pm in the church or on the church path depending on the weather.
Sun 10 May	APCM after the 10am Eucharist.
Sun 10 May	Parish Lunch in church. Details of price will be published next Sunday.
Sat 6 June	Hawkhurst Fete on the King George V playing field.
Sat 18 July	The Aardvarks Big Band will entertain us with an afternoon concert and strawberry tea.
Sun 9 August	Patronal Festival and lunchtime picnic.

Sat 26 September	Pre-loved clothes sale plus baby paraphernalia from 10am to 12pm in the church.
Sat 3 October	Harvest Supper and quiz night in church.
Sat 28 November	Christmas Fair with Santa.
Sat 14 December	Bodiam Band evening concert