

WELCOME TO
ST. GILES' CHURCH, HORSTED
KEYNES



FAMILY EUCHARIST for EASTER DAY

Sunday 20th April 2025

On the greatest Feast of the Christian year, welcome as we gather to encounter the risen Lord Jesus in the scriptures and the breaking of bread. We hope you will join us as we share fellowship over tea and coffee at the end of the Eucharist.

Please stand when the Priests and server enter:

HYMN: **Jesus Christ is risen 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!

Priest +In the name of the Father, the Son and the Spirit
All Amen

Priest The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

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

The Priest introduces **THE CONFESSION**

Priest Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life.
 Lord, have mercy
All Lord, have mercy.

 Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins.
 Christ, have mercy
All Christ, have mercy

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

VE DAY 80th NATIONAL CELEBRATION Monday 5th May at the Martindale Centre.

Come and join us at the Martindale from 3.00p.m. as we celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. Tea will be served and singing led by the Horsted Keynes Singers, with activities for children, followed by BBQ and Bar in the evening and lighting of a Beacon.

If you would like to join the Singers, please come to their rehearsals on Tuesday 22nd and Tuesday 29th April 7.45p.m. - 9.00p.m. at the Martindale Centre. All Welcome, especially men!

NATIONAL BEACON LIGHTING Thursday 8th May at 9.30p.m. on the Green, preceded by a procession from the Martindale Centre.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING Thursday 15th May 7.30p.m. at the Martindale Centre: In preparation for our A.P.C.M., we need to create a new Electoral Roll. If you would like your name to be included, please complete the form, copies of which are on the table at the back of church and give them to Fiona Price by 6th May.

Lord Jesus, you feed us with the living bread.

Lord, have mercy

All Lord, have mercy.

Priest May the God of love and power +forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

GLORIA

**All Glory be to God in heaven,
songs of joy and peace we bring,
thankful hearts and voices raising,
to creation's Lord we sing:
Lord, we thank you, Lord, we bless you,
glory be to God our King.**

**Lamb of God who on your shoulders
bore the load of this world's sin,
only Son of God the Father,
you have brought us peace within:
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy,
now your glorious reign begin.**

**You, O Son of God, are holy.
You we praise with one accord.
None in heaven or earth is like you.
Only you are Christ the Lord,
with the Father and the Spirit,
ever worshipped and adored.**

COLLECT

Let us pray that we may reign with the risen Christ in glory.

Priest: 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.

All Amen

NEW TESTAMENT:

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (*Acts 10.34-43*)

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ - he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

HYMN Love's redeeming work is done,
fought the fight, the battle won.
Lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er!
Lo, he sets in blood no more!

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal!
Christ has burst the gates of hell;
death in vain forbids him rise;
Christ has opened paradise.

Lives again our glorious King;
where, O death, is now thy sting?
Dying once, he all doth save;
where thy victory, O grave?

Soar we now where Christ has led,
following out exalted Head;
made like him, like him we rise,
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

EASTER WEEK AT ST GILES

Wednesday in Easter Week 10.00a.m. Eucharist

Sunday 27th April

Second Sunday of Easter

8.00a.m. Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist

Father David is on holiday from this afternoon until Tuesday 6 May. For urgent matters call one of our wardens Barbara Fairweather, 01825 790375 or John Whiting, 01825 791132

Father Peter is available to us in the parish for two days per week. Key working times will often be Sunday morning and some part of Wednesdays and Fridays, but it will, of course, be flexible as to what is happening that week. He may also be contacted on dedicated parish phone & email, but please bear in mind he may not be able to respond immediately – His contact details are frpetersutton@outlook.com or 07936 021801

PLEASE PRAY:

In our village: for all who live in Lucas; All who live or work in Westall House; St Giles School, its pupils, families, staff and governors.

The sick: Pam Brimfield, Roger & Kim Chaplin, David Colville, Emmeline, Terry and Sylvia Higham, Clive Hills, Mary Hopper, Jenny Johnson, James Lassis, Esme McNaughton, Pam and John Newman, Richard and Jessie Sanderson, Elaine Seear, Ann Statham, Father Peter Sutton, Jane Terry, Benjamin True.

Anniversary of death: Mary Southwood

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Priest Let us pray
Look upon your Church, O God, with unfailing love and favour, so
that, renewed by the paschal mysteries, she may come to the glory
of the resurrection. Though Christ our Lord.
All Amen.

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Priest The Lord be with you
All and also with you
God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,
strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life; and the blessing of
God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you
and remain with you always.
All Amen.
Priest: Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!
All Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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 vict'ry, 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 now liveth, death hath lost its sting. Refrain**

**No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught 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. Refrain**

**Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!
Praise to thee by both be given:
thee we greet triumphant now;
hail, the Resurrection thou!**

EASTER GOSPEL PROCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Priest: I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All Glory to you, O Lord *John 20. 1-18*

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." Mary Magdalene went and announced to the

disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Priest: This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you, O Christ

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

SERMON – *followed by music for reflection*

As many of you know, this is my last Easter before retirement. I hope you will bear with me then, if I move on a few hours from the Gospel we just heard. Each of the resurrection appearances gives us different insights into that most wonderful mystery. If one is allowed to have favourites, mine is that on the Road to Emmaus. Luke 24. 13-35

It happened 'That same day,' (as Luke tells us.) Two of Jesus' followers were on their way to Emmaus - walking and talking and arguing about what had happened to him. The risen Christ joins them: walking together with strangers was common, for company and safety.

They fail to recognize him. The word can also mean to perceive him. Hardly surprising as they think he is dead! And failure, at first, to recognize Jesus is a theme common to several resurrection appearances. Jesus asks them what they are talking about and, with comic irony, they ask if he is the only person in Jerusalem who had not heard about the recent events. Jesus explains to them how the Old Testament Scriptures show that the Jewish Messiah was bound to suffer. When they reach the village Jesus seems ready to go on, but they invite him to stay and eat with them. While they are at table, Jesus 'took bread and said the blessing; he broke the bread, and offered it to them', (verse 30) just as he had at the Last Supper, the previous Thursday. Then their eyes are opened and they recognize him, yet at that same moment he vanishes. They realise their hearts were on fire as he spoke to them on the road and explained the Scriptures; and they rush back to Jerusalem to share the joyful news.

This story speaks to me in so many ways. I like walking and it can be a good time to speak with someone in greater depth. I don't like arguments. But perhaps, at their best, they can be honest discussions leading to deeper insights. The Risen Christ always walks alongside us on our journey through life. Yet we often fail to recognize, to perceive him. 'Humanly speaking they – and we – fail to recognize Jesus because, like many a modern sceptic, they – and we – are convinced that such a miracle could not happen, and no amount of evidence can persuade them – or us – otherwise.' 1 .

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Jesus says, I am the bread of life,
Whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

All: Lord, our hearts hunger for you; Give us this bread always.

INVITATION

Priest Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Body of Christ.

All: Amen

The Blood of Christ

All: Amen

During Communion : First performance of 'Easter Song' by George Herbert 1593-1633, music by Jonathan Rutherford 1953-

Soprano, Katie Spetch; Tenor, Jack Emery; Piano, Martin Govas.

*I got me flowers to straw thy way:
I got me boughs off many a tree:
But thou wast up by break of day,
And brought'st thy sweets along with thee.*

*The Sun arising in the East,
Though he give light, and th'East perfume;
If they should offer to contest
With thy arising, they presume.*

*Can there be any day but this,
Though many suns to shine endeavour?
We count three hundred, but we miss:
There is but one, and that one ever.*

Silence is kept.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Please kneel or sit as the priest sings God's praises, until

**All: 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.

The priest continues until this acclamation:

Priest: Great is the mystery of faith

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

At the end of the Eucharistic prayer, we respond

All: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Priest Rejoicing in God's new creation, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**All 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.**

AGNUS DEI: *Sung*

**All: 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.**

If we will, we can ask the Holy Spirit to open our minds and hearts so that we meet Christ in Scripture. We can be his companions on the way: companions literally means those who share bread.

Jesus comes to supper as their guest, and yet, by repeating the actions of the Last Supper, he becomes their host. Now they recognize him in the breaking of bread. For this is the surest way he gives us to recognize him: the Eucharist, the Mass, Holy Communion, which has been the heart and centre of Christian worship, each Sunday, each day, from that day to this. This is how our hearts can be set on fire – how we can be filled with joy and inspired to share the Good News.

I love Caravaggio's painting of this scene. A copy hangs on our dining room wall, to remind us that not just the Eucharist, but any and every meal, where companions share bread, can become an encounter with the Risen Lord. Caravaggio was a dubious character, like the ones Jesus loved in his lifetime. 'His life was just as provocative as his paintings.' 2 In this work, Caravaggio makes the scene vivid by his characteristic combination of realism and light. An almost unearthly light shines on Christ's face as he raises his hand in blessing. One of the two companions stares at him intently, the other flings wide his arms in astonishment.

The innkeeper looks, to me, indifferent to what is happening, as so many still are. Caravaggio's dramatic depiction makes the scene so vivid. He brings it into our own time. He involves us, so that we don't just passively watch, but feel involved in the drama. 3

This Easter Day, may we recognize Christ anew, in friend and stranger, in the Scriptures and in the Breaking of Bread. May our lives be drawn into his risen life. Thus may we be filled with joy to share. For:

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Amen.

1) G B Caird, 'The Gospel of St Luke', Adam and Charles Black, 1963

2) Alastair Sooke, introducing on-line the National Gallery Exhibition 'Beyond Caravaggio.' 2016

3) Adapted from Letizia Treves, Curator of that exhibition.

CREED *(please stand)*

All: 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.

INTERCESSIONS *(please kneel or sit)*

Reader: Lord, hear us

All: Lord, graciously hear us

At the end: Merciful Father,

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

THE PEACE

Priest The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said,
'Peace be with you.' Then were they glad when they saw the Lord.
Alleluia. The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

HYMN *During the singing of this hymn, a Collection is taken. Our charitable
collection for March and April is in support of UNCEF Sudan Appeal. Please
put any donations into the orange envelopes and Gift Aid, if appropriate.
There is a machine for electronic donations at the back of church, together
with the plate for donations.*

*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. Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks*

*Spread The Good News All The Earth
Jesus Has Died And Has Risen. Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks*

*We Have Been Crucified With Christ
Now We Shall Live Forever. Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks*

*God Has Proclaimed The Just Reward
Life For us all, Alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks*

*Come Let Us Praise The Living God
Joyfully Sing To Our Saviour. Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks*

During the singing of this hymn bread and wine are brought to the Altar.

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

All May the Lord accept this Easter sacrifice to the praise and glory of
his name for our good and the good of all his church.

Priest The Lord be with you

All and also with you.