

The Parish Church of St John the Evangelist, Crowborough

www.stjohnscrowborough.co.uk



7TH APRIL: THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

COLLECT

Almighty Father,
you have given your only Son to die for our sins
and to rise again for our justification:
grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and
wickedness
that we may always serve you
in pureness of living and truth;
through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ 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: Acts 4. 32-35

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PSALM 133

How good and pleasant it is to live together in unity.

O how good and pleasant it is,
when a family lives together in unity!
It is like fine oil upon the head
that runs down upon the beard,
Upon the beard of Aaron,
and runs down upon the collar of his robe. **R**

It is like the dew of Hermon
that falls upon the hills of Zion.
For there the Lord has ordained the blessing:
life for evermore. **R**

SECOND READING: 1 John 1.1—2.2

A reading from the first letter of John.

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands,

concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus said, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

GOSPEL: John 20.19-31

It was evening on the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and

Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord, through faith and baptism we have become a new creation. Accept the offerings of your people and bring us to eternal happiness. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION

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

PRAYERS

For us to know the risen Christ this Eastertide.

For the Holy Land, Ukraine, Afghanistan and Sudan and all war-torn areas of the world.

Bishops in our diocese: Martin, Will, Ruth.

The Sick: Chris Avery, Sarah Cashmore, Jenny Chatterton, Erik Crichton, Tricia Curtis, Sally Everett, Paul Jones, Hubert Moore, Travey Norris, Kathy Redington, Edward Sibley.

Year's Mind: Dory MacKenzie, Benedict Sinclair, Robert Walker, Dorothy Isbister, Alice Clifton, James Hodges.

HYMNS

Entrance:	117
Offertory:	113
Communion:	112
Final:	119

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Sunday 7 April	8am Mass
2nd Sunday of Easter	10 am Parish Mass

Wednesday 10 April	10am Mass
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Sunday 14 April	8am Mass
3rd Sunday of Easter	10am Parish Mass
	12 Noon Holy Baptism
	(Aria Leia Millar)

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

This will take place at 11.45am on Sunday **21 April** and is open to all those registered on the Electoral Roll; a copy of which is displayed in the church porch.

If you have been worshipping at St John's for at least six months and would like to join the Electoral Roll, please complete a form at the back of the church or speak to Rita Burton or one of the churchwardens.

If you would like to stand for election to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) please complete a form at the back of the church.

Easter Customs in Church

Easter (or Paschal) Candle: this is lit at the Easter Vigil and solemnly brought into church accompanied by the chant 'Christ our Light/Thanks be to God'. It represents the risen Christ whose light shines in darkness. The candle remains in the sanctuary for Eastertide and thereafter is placed near to the font until the next Easter. Those who are baptised receive a candle lit from the Easter candle which symbolises new life in Christ. The Easter candle is also prominent at funerals as a reminder of our hope of resurrection. The main symbols on the candle are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet: Alpha and Omega (Christ is the beginning and end), the cross and 'wounds' (nails), symbolising the nails at the crucifixion, and the year in which it is lit at Easter 2024.



Alleluia: this is a Hebrew word meaning 'praise the Lord'. (Allelu=praise; Yah=the Lord). During Lent, it is not used from the liturgy, thus reflecting the sombre nature of this time in the Church's year. In Eastertide, it becomes very prominent, reminding us of the joy of the risen Christ, so it is used again in services and also many Easter hymns.

Priest in Charge: The Venerable Dr Edward Dowler (01273 425040) archhastings@chichester.anglican.org

Churchwardens: Carol Brown (01892 652310) carol.brown@btinternet.com;
Susan Miell (01825 760938) susanmiell@btinternet.com

Hall Contact: Please go to the Church Hall section of the website

PCC Secretary: Rita Burton (01892 664071) tylersrmb@gmail.com