

St John's, Pevensey Road



**Pews News & Service Sheet
for Sunday 25th April 2021**

The Fourth Sunday of Easter



Welcome to our Parish Mass service today - also viewable later via the Broadcast Page of our church website www.stjohnspevenseyroad.org.uk/broadcast

Sunday Parish Mass is held at 10:30 a.m. with a socially-distanced congregation; recorded and broadcast via our church website, by about Sunday lunchtime.

The church is open for **private prayer on weekday mornings**, following **Morning Prayer** which is said in church on weekdays at 9 a.m.

Midweek Mass Wednesday at 10 a.m.

Online “Zoom” service: 10 a.m. on Wednesday. Send Rev Jill or Deacon Michael an email and they will send you the necessary “link”.

People for whom our prayers are asked:

Jean & Geoff, Geraldine, Brenda R, Jane G, Jo, Amber, Shirley, Andrew N, Kath Q, Linda, Jude, Alison Nunes, Jackie A, Don F, Sue T, Eve G, and Cynthia C.

Please pray also for...

...the repose of the souls of the departed, especially those whose Years Minds fall around this time: Rosemary Brandt, Ben Richardson, and Vera Brown,

...and all who mourn.

HYMN OF THE WEEK: Thou Whose Almighty Word... chosen by Gwen B.

Today's gradual hymn is a reprise of Gwen's favourite hymn, which you may remember we featured back in February. It was originally supposed to be sung by Ian, but he was unfortunately unwell at the time. So we are very pleased to rejoice in his recovery, and welcome him to sing it for us today!

Gwen has fond memories of being a member of her school choir, and singing *Thou Whose Almighty Word*, as her school hymn, reflecting the involvement of the whole Trinity in Creation, and beyond.



Hopefully many of us have had our first Covid-19 vaccination, and possibly even both doses. There are various publicised appeals and opportunities to give thanks, donate vaccine doses to poor countries etc, so apologies if this is overlapping with

other initiatives. But **Christian Aid** are encouraging us to give thanks by donating to help the poorest and most vulnerable communities across the world, where there is little hope of a vaccine rollout. These people already face a lack of water, food, and healthcare. Some are homeless. Some are living with underlying health issues such as HIV. Christian Aid is “on the ground”, helping keep people safe from Coronavirus with practical support – but if we are so moved to donate, they can of course do so much more... Here is a donation link:-

christianaid.org.uk/give/ways-donate/give-thanks-your-coronavirus-vaccine

Mass for Easter 4

The Greeting

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Prayer of Confession

Christ our passover lamb has been
sacrificed for us.

Let us therefore rejoice by putting
away all malice and evil
and confessing our sins
with a sincere and true heart.

**All Almighty God,
our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence,
through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son
Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

The priest says the Absolution

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.

All Amen.

The Gloria in Excelsis is said:

**All Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand
of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

The Collect

Let us pray:

Risen Christ,
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:
teach us to hear your voice
and to follow your command,
that all your people may be gathered into
one flock,
to the glory of God the Father.

All Amen.

A reading from **The Acts of the Apostles**

Acts 4.5-12

The Jewish rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;

it has become the cornerstone." There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

For the Word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

A reading from **the First Letter of John**

1 John 3.16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

For the Word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn

Thou, whose almighty word
Chaos and darkness heard,
And took their flight;
Hear us, we humbly pray,
And where the gospel-day
Sheds not its glorious ray,
Let there be light!

Thou, who didst come to bring
On thy redeeming wing
Healing and sight,
Health to the sick in mind,
Sight to the inly blind,
O now to all mankind
Let there be light!

Spirit of truth and love,
Life-giving, holy Dove,
Speed forth thy flight;
Move o'er the waters' face,
Bearing the lamp of grace,
And in earth's darkest place
Let there be light!

Blessèd and holy Three,
Glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might;
Boundless as ocean's tide
Rolling in fullest pride,
Through the world far and wide
Let there be light! *John Marriott (1780-1825)*

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.
I am the first and the last,
says the Lord, and the living one;
I was dead, and behold I am alive for
evermore.

All Alleluia

The Lord be with you
All And also with you

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to John
All Glory to you, O Lord.

John 10.11-18

Jesus said to the Pharisees: 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away – and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in

order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

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

Sermon

The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God, Father,
Son and Holy Spirit.

**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.**

Prayers of Intercession

We pray to Jesus who is present with
us to eternity.

Jesus, light of the world,
bring the light and peace of your gospel
to the nations ...
Jesus, Lord of life,
All in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, bread of life,
give food to the hungry,
and nourish us all with your word.
Jesus, Lord of life,
All in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life,
be with us and all who follow you in the
way.
Deepen our appreciation of your truth
and fill us with your life.
Jesus, Lord of life,
All in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your
life for the sheep,
recover the straggler,
bind up the injured,
strengthen the sick...
and lead the healthy and strong to new
pastures.
Jesus, Lord of life,
All in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, the resurrection and the life,
we give you thanks for all who have lived
and believed in you ...
Raise us with them to eternal life.
Jesus, Lord of life,
**All in your mercy, hear us,
accept our prayers, and be with us
always. Amen.**

The Peace *is introduced*

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.

We may exchange a sign of peace

The Preparation of the Table

***The table is prepared and bread and
wine are placed upon it.***

***Music: Jesu, joy of Man's desiring from
Cantata no. 147 (J.S.Bach)***

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.
In your loving care you spread before us
the table of life
and give us the cup of salvation to drink.
Keep us always in the fold of our Saviour
and our Shepherd, your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Blessed be God for ever.

The president takes the bread and wine.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here

All His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you
thanks,
almighty and eternal Father,
and in these days of Easter
to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.
For by the mystery of his passion
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers of death
and hell
and restored in men and women
the image of your glory.
He has placed them once more in
paradise
and opened to them the gate of life
eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover,
earth and heaven resound with
gladness,
while angels and archangels and the
powers of all creation
proclaim for ever the hymn of your glory:

**All 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.**

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:

All 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 Saint John the Evangelist, Saint Peter, Saint Mark, Mary the Mother of God, and 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.
All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Breaking of the Bread

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

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

Agnus Dei is said:

All Jesus, Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us
Jesus, bearer of our sins,
Have mercy on us
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
Grant us peace

Giving of Communion

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

All Therefore let us keep the feast.
Alleluia.

Communion is received.

Music: Sheep may safely graze from Cantata no. 208 (J.S.Bach)

Prayer after Communion

The priest prays the Post Communion for the day:

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ
to be the good shepherd,
and in his love for us
to lay down his life and rise again:
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

**All Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off,
you met us in your Son
and brought us home.
Dying and living,
he declared your love,
gave us grace,
and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body
live his risen life;
we who drink his cup
bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights
give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set
before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your
name; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Notices

The Blessing and Dismissal

Priest The Lord be with you
All And also with you

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 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 the peace of Christ.
Alleluia, alleluia

**All Thanks be to God.
Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Concluding Voluntary: Postlude
Cantique (Dubois)**



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

This church's ANNUAL MEETINGS follow this service. The annual meeting of parishioners (AMP) is a meeting for all those on the church's electoral roll and all those resident in the parish whose names are on the civil electoral roll of the parish. The purpose of this meeting is to elect the churchwardens. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) then follows - a meeting for all those on the church's electoral roll, and certain qualifying clergy. The purpose of this meeting is to receive annual reports and to make various elections and appointments according to the Church Representation Rules.

History Corner: the fourth St John's



Last time, we left our story with Princess Elizabeth laying the foundation stone for the fourth (current) building. Here are architect Mr Goodhart-Rendel's drawings for the proposed exterior and interior of the new building. We are told that he "had virtually been given carte blanche in the matter of design" and that the new building incorporated many unusual features which were dear to his heart. His conception of the ideal church was "a cheerful, happy place", and the brightness of the white-glass windows, the light pastel interior colours, and the "snowcrete" walls were designed to create a light cheery interior.



Spot the differences! One is that the architect envisioned the choir and organ up on the balcony. Despite the positive acoustic effect this did not prove popular with the congregation, who preferred the choir to take part in the liturgical procession, and to be re-sited at ground level. The chapel at the north side of the chancel was also not included in the build.



Give us, O God, the vision which can see Thy love in the world in spite of human failure. Give us the faith, the trust, the goodness in spite of our ignorance and weakness.

Give us the knowledge that we may continue to pray with understanding hearts, and show us what each of us can do to set forth the coming of the day of universal Peace. Amen.

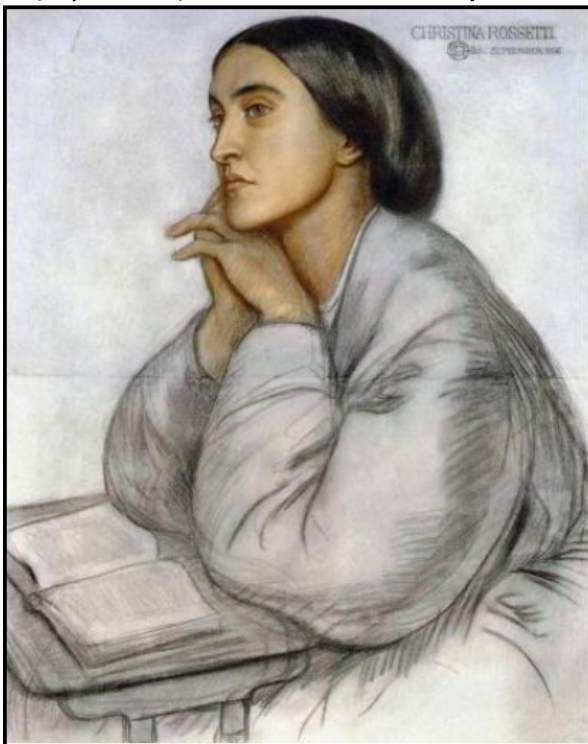
First prayer from space, from Apollo 8, 1968.

On Tuesday, 27th, the Church commemorates poet Christina Rossetti (1830-94)

Christina Rossetti was born in London, one of four children of Italian parents. Her father was the poet Gabriele Rossetti; her brother Dante Gabriel Rossetti also became a poet and a painter. Rossetti's first poems were written in 1842 and published by her grandfather. She went on to write some poems under the pseudonym Ellen Alleyne.

Rossetti is best known for her ballads and her mystic religious lyrics, and her poetry is marked by symbolism and intense feeling. She became established as a significant voice in Victorian poetry. She wrote the Christmas carols *In the Bleak Midwinter* and *Love Came Down at Christmas*. Rossetti was a volunteer worker from 1859 to 1870 at the *St Mary Magdalene house of charity* in Highgate.

By the 1880's, recurrent bouts of Graves disease ended Rossetti's attempts to work as a governess. While the illness restricted her social life, she continued to write poems and religious prose works, such as *Seek and Find* (1879), *Called To Be Saints* (1881) and *The Face of the Deep* (1892). In 1891, Rossetti developed cancer, of which she died in London on December 29, 1894.



Christina Rossetti by her brother, the artist Dante Gabriel Rossetti

The Rainbow

Boats sail on the rivers,
And ships sail on the seas;
But clouds that sail across the sky
Are prettier far than these.

There are bridges on the rivers,
As pretty as you please;
But the bow that bridges heaven,
And overtops the trees,
And builds a road from earth to sky,
Is prettier far than these.

Some Christina Rossetti quotations:

Were there no God, we would be in this
glorious world with grateful hearts,
and no one to thank.

Can anything be sadder than work left
unfinished? Yes, work never begun.

What are heavy? sea-sand and sorrow.
What are brief? today and tomorrow.
What are frail? spring blossoms and youth.
What are deep? the ocean and truth.

Tread softly! All the earth is holy ground.

Spring is when life's alive in everything.

Flowers preach to us if we will hear.

Open wide the windows of our spirits and fill
us full of light; open wide the door of our
hearts, that we may receive and entertain
Thee with all our powers of adoration.

O Lord, I cannot plead my love of Thee:
I plead Thy love of me: – the shallow conduit
hails the unfathomed sea.

The Small Print for this pewsheet:

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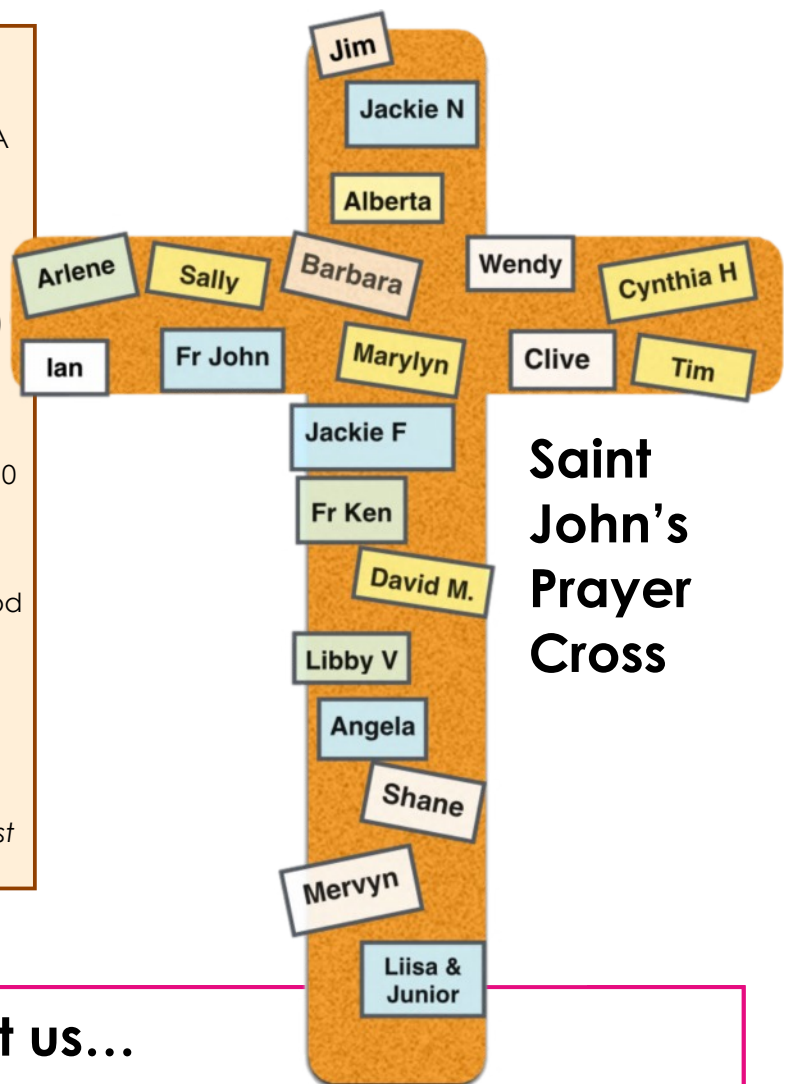
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Rossetti biography info from Wikipedia

History Corner info from *St John the Evangelist: The First
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