**The Benefice of Great Hanwood**

Longden & Annscroft with Pulverbatch

Sunday 20 April 2025
Easter Sunday

Collect

God of glory, by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill your Church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

**Acts 10: 34-43**

Then Peter began to speak to them: ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality, 35but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. 36You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. 37That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 38how 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. 39We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; 40but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,

41not 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.

42He 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.

43All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’

**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. 2So 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.’ 3Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. 4The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. 6Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, 7and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. 8Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, & he saw and believed;

9for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 10Then the disciples returned to their homes.

11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb;

12and 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. 13They 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.’ 14When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 15Jesus 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.’ 16Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher).

 17Jesus 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.” ’ 18Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

**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**.

**We pray for the following:**

Anne Hobson, Hefyn Edwards, Margaret Hill, Rhoda Pearce, Sheila Dawson-Campbell, Jonathan Fraser, Maisie, Liam, Mark, Louise, Andrew.

**Sunday 27 April – Easter 2**

 9.30am Matins - Pulverbatch

 11am Holy Communion - Longden

 11am Morning Worship – Hanwood

**Vision forming morning** on Saturday 3rd May seeking God’s will and vision for us as a Benefice. Please pray for guidance on this. If you would like to know more then do ask.

**We pray for our Benefice:**

For those living on Lyth Bank & Hill, Annscroft

Sun. Christ Church & the PCC

Mon Deanery Clergy and Readers

Tues. Rural Dean – Rev Greg Smith

Weds. Deanery Synod members

Thurs. Shops & Post Offices

Fri. Postal staff, bus drivers

Sat The vulnerable people in our society -

 pensioners, sick, disabled, unemployed

**Prayers**: On Easter Day may the glory of the Resurrection touch our hearts afresh, restore our hope and inspire us to praise and service. Pray that those who visit our churches at Easter may feel welcomed, affirmed and refreshed.

**An update**

Our PCCs have been very generous over the years in our Parish Offer, however in all our three PCCs our income has been dropping as members of our congregations die or move away. Each PCC also has a number of building projects that we are currently addressing - roof repairs (£3300) and pointing (£12,000) at Pulverbatch, a complete rewire at Annscroft church (£8000) – we have turned off some heaters as the wiring was being overloaded – internal plastering at Longden (£2300) and putting in new heating at Hanwood plus associated work (£24,000), and tree and floor repair and new gutter at Hanwood (£12,300). We are applying for grants but will probably have to pay something from PCC funds. So the PCCs have a huge challenge when we meet in June to decide our Parish Offer for 2026 - do we continue with our current amount, Increase or even decrease, bearing in mind the building demands we currently have and our reducing income? Please pray for guidance for the PCC members, pray that others outside our church community may see our need and respond generously and pray whether God is asking you to also respond with an extra financial gift at this time. Anything extra you can give would greatly encourage our PCC members who do a great job at maintaining our churches while at the same time reaching out to our communities through Messy Church, Toddlers etc.