**The Benefice of Great Hanwood**

Longden & Annscroft with Pulverbatch

Sunday 11 May 2025
Easter 4

Collect for Christian Aid

Lord, you are faithful to your promises. Through the Spirit you bless us with abounding hope. When power seeks to silence justice, give us the courage to raise our voice. When an end to poverty seems far off, renew our faith in your kingdom come on earth. When our neighbour reaches out, inspire us to respond with overflowing love. In Jesus’ name. **Amen**.

**Acts 9: 36-43**

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity.

37At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs.

38Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, ‘Please come to us without delay.’ 39So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing, that Dorcas had made while she was with them.

40Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, ‘Tabitha, get up.’ Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. 41He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive.

42This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. 43Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

**John 10: 22-30**

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, 23and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. 24So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, ‘How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.’

25Jesus answered, ‘I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; 26but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep.

27My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. 28I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. 29What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand.30The Father and I are one.’

**Post Communion Prayer**

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. **Amen**.

**We pray for the following:**

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

**The Week Ahead**

Year 6 (age 10-11) have their exams this week – do pray for them.

Mon 12th 3.15pm Messy Church- Pulverbatch

 Village Hall

Thurs 15th 10am Holy Communion - Longden

**Sunday 18 May – Easter 5**

 9.30am Holy Communion - Pulverbatch

 11am Holy Communion - Annscroft

 4.30pm Songs of Praise – Vine Close, Hanwood

**We pray for our Benefice:**

For those living in Hook-a-Gate, Welbatch, Whitley, Exfords Green, Lower Common.

Sun. Rea Valley Foodbank

Mon. Local Councillors

Tues. Our MP & Shropshire Council

Wed. Our neighbours

Thur. Local farmers

Fri. Hillside Nursery, Hook-a-gate

Sat. The New Inn, Hook-a-gate

The trench for the 3 phase cable has been dug, the hole made through the vestry wall. On Wednesday 4th June National Grid will put in the 3 phase, and on Thursday 5th Eon will fit a new smart meter. Electrical heating solutions will put in the under pew heaters in the week beginning Monday 16th June. We will also replace the 2 heaters in the social area.

The 28-day notice for the guttering ended on Friday 9th May and so we wait for permission from the chancellor.

We are arranging a date for the floor to be repaired in the social area.

After advice from the DAC I have decided to abandon the faculty for the ceiling and insulation in the vestry, instead we shall look at a heater to warm that area. We have been blessed with grants and donations totaling £25,000. Just need another £4300.