

# CLAPHAM :: KEASDEN :: AUSTWICK :: ELDROTH CHURCHES WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

*"His disciples were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one asked "Why?""*

No.298. 8 March 2026, The Third Sunday of Lent

9.30 Austwick Holy Communion; 11.00 Keasden Holy Communion

## Exodus 17.1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. 2 The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?' 3 But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' 4 So Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What

shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' 5 The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. 6 I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7 He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

## Psalm 95.1-7

- 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord;  
**let us heartily rejoice  
in the rock of our salvation.**
- 2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving,  
**and be glad in him with psalms.**
- 3 For the Lord is a great God  
**and a great king above all gods.**
- 4 In his hand are the depths of the earth,  
**and the heights of the mountains are his also.**
- 5 The sea is his, for he made it,  
**and his hands have moulded the dry land.**
- 6 Come, let us worship and bow down  
**and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**
- 7 For he is our God;  
**we are the people of his pasture  
and the sheep of his hand. Amen**



*Christ meets the woman at the well.  
Stained glass window at St Teresa of the  
Child Jesus, Princes Risborough*

## **John 4.5-30, 39**

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'.

(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.'

The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.'

The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.' Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!'

The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say

that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.'

Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for

salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all

things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?'

The people left the city and went on their way to him. Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony.

## **Prayers**

The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East, The Most Revd Hosam Naoum; the peoples of Cyprus and the Gulf, Iran, Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and Israel.

*Those who are unwell:* Jack Taylor, Nick Trenholme, Ann Moore

*Remembering:* Ann Sheridan



## Collect

Almighty God,  
whose most dear Son went not up to joy  
but first he suffered pain,  
and entered not into glory before he was  
crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking  
in the way of the cross,  
may find it none other than the way of life  
and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son  
our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Lord,  
grant your people grace to withstand the  
temptations of the world, the flesh and  
the devil, and with pure hearts and minds  
to follow you, the only God;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## MUSIC IN OUR MORNING SERVICES

*Sunday 8th March: The Third Sunday of Lent*

*9:30 Austwick Holy Communion; 11:00 Keasden Holy Communion*

*Opening hymn: 376* I heard the voice of Jesus say

*Gradual hymn: 366* God of mercy, God of grace

*Hymn before Communion: 439* Praise to the holiest in the height (Verses 1,2,5,6,7)

*Closing hymn: 413* Now thank we all our God

*Today the worldwide Anglican Church prays for Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. The Archbishop and Primate, The Most Revd Hosam Naoum, this week shared a pastoral letter regarding the escalating conflict in the Middle East. This is an extract from that letter:*

Suddenly, our people from the Mediterranean to the Persian Gulf find themselves once again huddled in shelters, fearing for their lives as the shadow of war looms over us.

These developments strike at the very soul of our Province of Jerusalem & the Middle East. Every single nation now engaged in this combat, and those bearing the brunt of the retaliatory strikes, resides within our ecclesiastical boundaries.

In the face of such overwhelming force, we recall the words of our Lord Jesus Christ: 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God' (Matt 5:9). Today, that calling feels heavier than ever before. When the 'spirit of fear' threatens to consume our hearts, we must anchor ourselves in the 'spirit of power, and of love, and of a sound mind' (2 Tim 1:7).

First, I call upon the global Church to join us in urgent, unceasing prayer. We implore God to protect the innocent—the mothers, the children, and the elderly—who are caught in the crossfire. We pray specifically for a 'sound mind' for the leaders of the United States, Israel, and Iran, that they might recognise the futility of this bloodshed and turn back from the precipice of a global catastrophe.

Second, we must offer each other the sanctuary of Christian love. I therefore urge our clergy and laity to be beacons of comfort. In a time of 'regime change' rhetoric and military ultimatums, let our message be the unchanging promise of Christ's peace: to build each other up (1 Cor 8:1), for our hope is not in the strength of armadas or missile shields, but in the Prince of Peace.

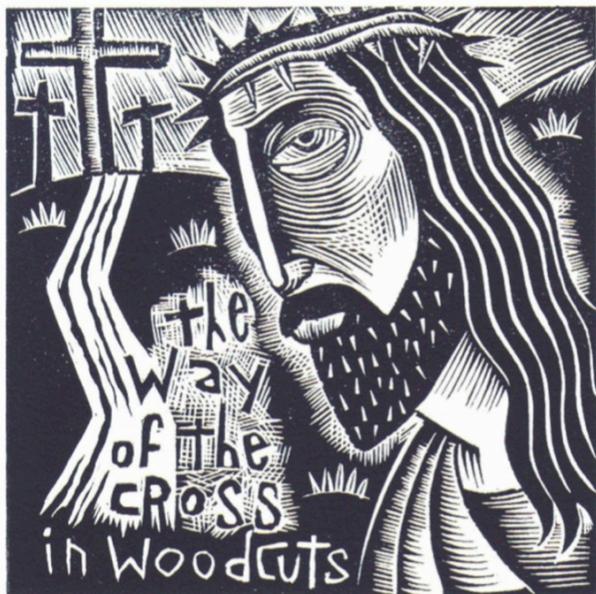
Finally, we must remain 'Bridge Builders.' Even as diplomatic windows seem to slam shut, the Church must keep the doors of reconciliation open. We refuse to see our neighbours as enemies, whether they be in Tehran, Tel Aviv, or the military bases of the Gulf. I extend an urgent invitation to the wider Anglican Communion and all people of goodwill: Intercede for us now. The hour is late, and the danger is great. We remain "battered and bruised, but not defeated." May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. *In Christ, The Most Revd Hosam E. Naoum, Primate and President Bishop.*



## The Stations of the Cross: Austwick

8th March until 4th April

The Stations of the Cross are a series of fourteen images depicting Jesus Christ on the day of his crucifixion, with accompanying prayers.



The Stations help us to make a spiritual pilgrimage through contemplation of the Passion of Christ. They are a popular devotion in many Christian traditions.

- ❖ A series of 14 images are arranged in numbered order around the church.
- ❖ Each image depicts an episode on Jesus' journey from Gethsemane to the cross.
- ❖ We stop at each station to say prayers and reflect on the episode depicted there.

The Stations feature woodcuts by Kreg Yingst and will be on view in Austwick Church for you to visit, daily from 8th March until 4th April.

## Our Church Services to Easter

**15 March** *Mothering Sunday*

**9.30 Austwick** Holy Communion

**11.00 Clapham** Easy Church

**6.30 Eldroth** Taizé service

**22 March** *Lent 5*

**9.30 Austwick** Holy Communion

**11.00 Clapham** Holy Communion

**4.00 Keasden** A Hot Cross Service

**29 March** *Palm Sunday*

**10.30 Clapham** Benefice Communion

**7.00 New Inn** Church in the Pub

**2 April** *Maundy Thursday*

**6.30 Eldroth** Last Supper

**3 April** *Good Friday*

**2.00 Austwick** Reflections by the Cross

**5 April** *Easter Sunday*

**9.30 Austwick** Holy Communion  
(Revd Steve Rathbone)

**9.30 Eldroth** Holy Communion

**11.00 Clapham** Holy Communion

**4.00 Keasden** Service / Easter Egg Hunt

**Wednesday 15 April**

**10.30 Austwick** Austwick School  
Easter Service

**Bowland and Ewecross Deanery**  
**Lent Meetings 2026**

## Music of our Hearts

**Settle Parish Church**

**7.00-9.00pm**

**Wednesdays**  
**in March**

A series of meetings to hear about, experience, and enjoy, a variety of music and hymnody from our Christian traditions old and new.

**11 March Wesleyan**

Revd Stephen Dawson

**18 March Taizé Community**

Revd Sue McWhinney

**25 March Songs of Praise** followed by an  
organ recital by Benjamin Saunders

**All welcome!**