

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

"For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to him."

No.299. 15 March 2026, Mothering Sunday

9.30 Austwick Holy Communion; 11.00 Clapham Easy Church;

6.30 Eldroth Taizé Service

Call to Worship

And the Spirit himself joins with our spirits to say that we are God's children. Romans 8:16

The spirit of God calls us from many places;
some of us come from busy homes with many people;
some of us live alone.

We belong to God's family

This week has been different for each of us;
some of us have had happy news we want to celebrate;
some of us have faced grief and need to cry.

We belong to God's family

Yet we all come to this same place;
all of us seeking God's presence in our lives
all of us seeking God's presence with each other.

We belong to God's family



Image: Hasibul Islam

1 Samuel 1.20-28

20 In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked him of the Lord.'

21 The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. 22 But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the Lord, and remain there for ever; I will offer

him as a Nazirite for all time.' 23 Her husband Elkanah said to her, 'Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only—may the Lord establish his word.' So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him. 24 When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was

young. 25 Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. 26 And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord. 27 For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to him. 28 Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord.' She left him there for the Lord.

John 19.25-27

25 Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved

standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' 27 Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.



Mary and Jesus,
Sarah Fuller (2012)

Psalm 34:11-20

11 Come, O children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

12 Which of you desires life,
and covets many days to enjoy good?

13 Keep your tongue from evil,
and your lips from speaking deceit.

14 Depart from evil, and do good;
seek peace, and pursue it.

15 The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears are open to their cry.

16 The face of the Lord is against evildoers,
**to cut off the remembrance of them
from the earth.**

17 When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears,
and rescues them from all their troubles.

18 The Lord is near to the broken-hearted,
and saves the crushed in spirit.

19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the Lord rescues them from them all.

20 He keeps all their bones;
not one of them will be broken. Amen

Prayers

The Anglican Church of Kenya, The Most Revd Jackson Ole Sapit.

The work of the Mothers' Union worldwide.

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

Remembering: Ann Sheridan, Roger Moran.

Collect

God of love,
passionate and strong, tender and
careful: watch over us and hold us
all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Post Communion

Loving God, as a mother feeds her
children at the breast, you feed us in
this sacrament with the food and drink
of eternal life: help us who have tasted
your goodness to grow in grace within
the household of faith; through Jesus
Christ our Lord. **Amen**

MUSIC IN OUR MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE

9:30 Austwick Holy Communion

Opening hymn: 285 For the beauty of the earth

Gradual hymn: 473 When morning gilds the skies (verses 1,6,7,8)

Hymn before Communion: God of Eve and God of Mary (*words below*)

Closing hymn: 239 Lord of all hopefulness

God of Eve and God of Mary,
God of love and mother earth,
Thank you for the ones who with us
Shared their life and gave us birth.

2 As you came to earth in Jesus,
So you come to us today;
You are present in the caring
That prepares us for life's way.

3 Thank you, that the Church,
our Mother,
Gives us bread and fills our cup,
And the comfort of the Spirit
Warms our hearts and lifts us up.

4 Thank you for belonging, shelter,
Bonds of friendship, ties of blood,
All varieties of people
In the family of God.

5 God of Eve and God of Mary,
Christ our brother, human son,
Spirit, caring like a mother,
Take our love and make us one.

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Blessing

May the Lord who brought us to birth by his Spirit, strengthen us for the Christian life. May the Lord who provides for all our needs, sustain us day by day. May the Lord whose steadfast love is constant as a mother's care, send us out to live and work for others. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen**



Mary Sumner's Prayer

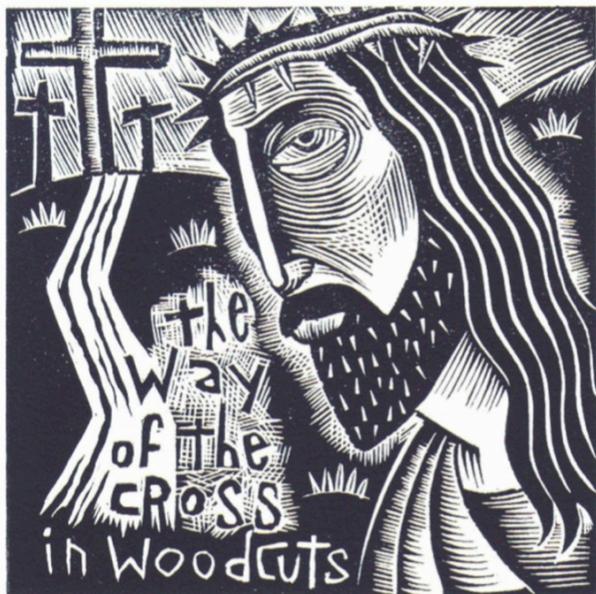
*Mary Sumner, 1828-1921,
was the founder of the Mothers' Union*

*"All this day, O Lord,
let me touch as many lives
as possible for thee;
and every life I touch,
do thou by thy Spirit quicken,
whether through the word I speak,
the prayer I breathe,
or the life I live. Amen"*

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

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

12 April Second Sunday of Easter

9.30 Austwick Holy Communion
11.00 Keasden Holy Communion

Wednesday 15 April

10.30 Austwick School Easter Service

Please note the day for this month's

AFTERNOON FELLOWSHIP

MONDAY 23 MARCH, 2.00-3.30

at Austwick Parish Hall, when

Beth O'Reilly and Sam Leach

**of Austwick's
Ambry Bakery**

will be coming to talk
about their work.

All welcome.



Bowland and Ewecross Deanery Lent Series 2026

Music of our Hearts

Settle Parish Church,

Wednesdays, 7.00-9.00pm

18th March: Taizé worship led by
Revd Sue McWhinney.

25th March: A DIY Songs of Praise
and conclude with an organ recital by
Benjamin Saunders, Director of Music,
RC Diocese of Leeds. *All welcome!*