

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

*"Mortal, can these bones live?"*

No.300. 22 March 2026, The Fifth Sunday of Lent

9.30 Austwick Holy Communion; 11.00 Clapham Holy Communion;

4.00 Keasden A Hot Cross Service

## Ezekiel 37.1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. 2 He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. 3 He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' 4 Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. 5 Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 6 I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

7 So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. 8 I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. 9 Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' 10 I prophesied as he commanded

me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

11 Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off



completely." 12 Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. 13 And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. 14 I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

Can these bones live? Gaza, 2025. Photograph: Anadolu/Getty Images

## Psalm 130

1 Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice;  
**let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.**

2 If you, Lord, were to mark what is done amiss,

**O Lord, who could stand?**

3 But there is forgiveness with you,  
**so that you shall be feared.**

4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him;  
**in his word is my hope.**

5 My soul waits for the Lord,  
more than the night watch for the morning,  
**more than the night watch for the morning.**

6 O Israel, wait for the Lord,  
**for with the Lord there is mercy;**

7 With him is plenteous redemption  
**and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins. Amen**

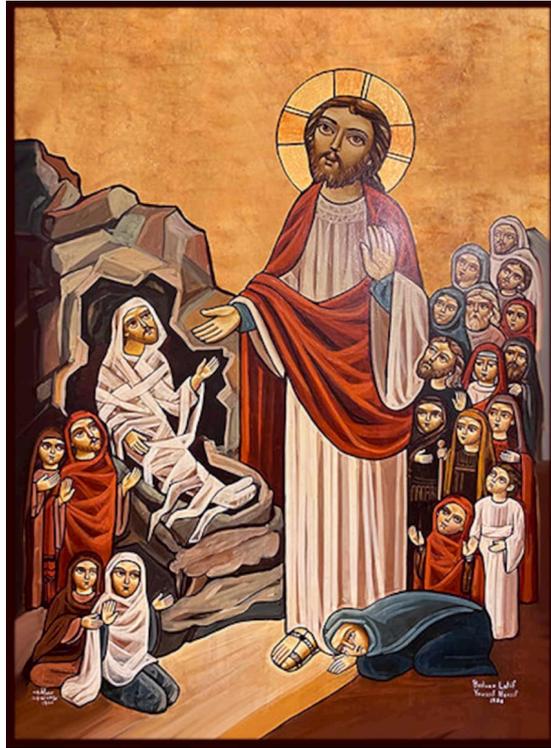
### John 11.17-45

17 When Jesus arrived at Bethany, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. 18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, 19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. 20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. 21 Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' 23 Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' 24 Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' 25 Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' 27 She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

28 When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' 29 And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. 30 Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. 31 The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. 32 When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' 33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. 34 He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' 35 Jesus wept. 36 So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' 37 But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the

blind man have kept this man from dying?’

38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 39 Jesus said, ‘Take away the stone.’ Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, ‘Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.’ 40 Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?’ 41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, ‘Father, I thank you for having heard me.



42 I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.’ 43 When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out!’ 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, and let

him go.’

45 Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

### Prayers

The Anglican Church of Korea

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

*Remembering:* Ann Sheridan, Roger Moran.

I am sure I shall see the goodness of the Lord  
in the land of the living.  
Yes, I shall see the goodness of our God,  
hold firm, trust in the Lord.  
*Taizé Community*

### Collect

Most merciful God,  
who by the death and resurrection of  
your Son Jesus Christ delivered and  
saved the world: grant that by faith in  
him who suffered on the cross we may  
triumph in the power of his victory;  
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

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you have taught us that what we do for  
the least of our brothers and sisters  
we do also for you:  
give us the will to be the servant of  
others as you were the servant of all,  
and gave up your life and died for us,  
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.  
**Amen**

## MUSIC IN OUR MORNING SERVICES

**Opening hymn: 137** Come down, O Love divine

**Gradual hymn: 342** Breathe on me, Breath of God

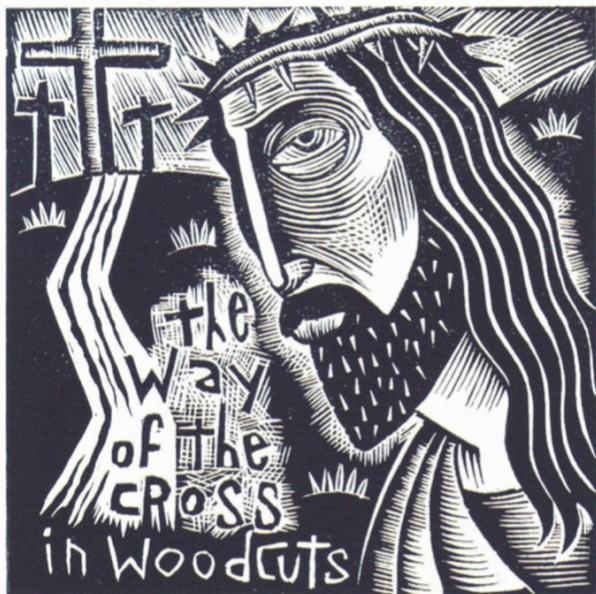
**Hymn before Communion: 117** The day of resurrection

**Closing hymn: 408** Love divine, all loves excelling

## 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

**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

## AFTERNOON FELLOWSHIP tomorrow...

**MONDAY 23 MARCH, 2.00-3.30**

at Austwick Parish Hall, with

**Beth O'Reilly and Sam Leach  
of Austwick's Ambry Bakery**

*Bowland and Ewecross Deanery Lent Series 2026*

## Music of our Hearts

**Settle Parish Church,  
Wednesdays, 7.00-9.00pm**

**Our closing session:**

**25th March: A DIY Songs of Praise**

Concluding with an organ recital by

**Benjamin Saunders**, Director of Music,  
RC Diocese of Leeds. *All welcome!*

St Matthew's Church Keasden

## Coffee Morning

Clapham Village Hall

Saturday 28 March

10.00-12.00