**The Benefice of Great Hanwood**

Longden & Annscroft with Pulverbatch

Sunday 27 April 2025
Easter 2

Collect

Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked,

no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father. **Amen**

**Acts 5: 27-32**

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, 28saying, ‘We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.’ 29But Peter and the apostles answered,

‘We must obey God rather than any human authority.30The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. 31God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, so that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

32And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.’

**John 20: 19-31**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ 20After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

21Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’

22When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. 23If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them;

if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.’

26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ 27Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.’ 28Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ 29Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 31But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

**Post Communion Prayer**

Lord God our Father,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have assured your children of eternal life
and in baptism have made us one with him:
deliver us from the death of sin
and raise us to new life in your love,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. **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**

Wed 30 Apr 3pm Messy Church Planning Meeting in Rectory

Thurs 1 May – 10am Holy Communion - Longden

Sat 3 May 9am – 1pm **VISION FORMING MEETING** in Pulverbatch Village Hall. A time to explore where are as a church community and discern what plans God might have for us going forward. Revd Kevin Roberts will help lead this. Starts with bacon butties and finishes with a meal. LET Graham know if you wish to come so we can buy enough food.

**Sunday 4 May – Easter 3**

 11am Sunday Praise - Annscroft

 11am Holy Communion - Hanwood

 Followed by APCM

**We pray for our Benefice:**

For those living in Longden, Longden Manor and Longden Common Lane

Sun. St Ruthen’s Church & the PCC

Mon. Longden Primary School

Tues. Longden Parish Council

Wed. Doctors, dentists, nurses

Thur. The widowed and bereaved

Fri. The Red Lion

Sat. Longden Village Hall