



June 2024

Sunday Services in June

2 nd	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship with Communion
	10am	All Saints	Morning Worship with breakfast
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship
9 th	9am	St Mark's	Morning Prayer
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship with Communion
	6.30pm	All Saints	Informal Worship
16 th	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship with Communion
	10am	All Saints	Morning worship with breakfast
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship
23 rd	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship with Communion
	10.45am	St Mary's	Morning Worship with Communion
	2.30pm	Woodgate Hub Café	Sundays at The Hub
	5.15pm	All Saints	Meal and Informal Worship
30 th	9am	St Mark's	Common Worship with Communion
	11am	Handcross recreation ground	Parish-wide worship

Weekly services are taking place at our churches, and **everyone is welcome**.

Our current plans are as above but they are subject to change. Please look out for email communication, and keep an eye on our social media pages, website, YouTube channel and weekly notice sheet.

The St Mary's services are put onto YouTube and we hope they will be a blessing to those who still cannot attend in person. They can be found here:

https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCBQ0W4r1m39ixogQWR3TxoA?fbclid=IwAR2vLqbms97lq9StSwn8qvgX_vTF11-tg0LV7z80cVFC8BZE034WNbNHhc4

Or search for: United Benefice of St Mary's and St Mark's.

You can subscribe to the sermons as a podcast too. All links are on the website at <https://www.stmarysparish.org.uk/podcasts/>.

Other Events

June

1 st	10am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
1 st	7.30pm	All Saints	Quiz night
3 rd	7pm	All Saints	Youth Club
4 th	7pm	All Saints	Prayer gathering
5 th	10.30am	All Saints	Community Coffee Morning
5 th	12.30pm	All Saints	Alpha course
7 th	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
7 th	8pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
8 th	10am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
10 th	7pm	All Saints	Youth Club
12 th	12.30pm	All Saints	Alpha course
14 th	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
14 th	8pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
14 th	2pm	St Mark's	Wedding
15 th	10am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
17 th	1pm	All Saints	GITF Bible Study
17 th	7pm	All Saints	Youth Club
19 th	12.30pm	All Saints	Alpha course
21 st	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
21 st	8pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
22 nd	9am	St Mary's	Private meeting Copthorne PCC
22 nd	10am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
24 th	7pm	All Saints	Youth Club
26 th	12.30pm	All Saints	Alpha course
28 th	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
14 th	7.30pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
29 th	10am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
1 st – 10 th June		Carl will be away on a church mission with the Loynagalani Trust	
29 th – 30 th June		St Mary's will be closed for high-level cleaning	

July

1 st	7pm	All Saints	Youth Club
2 nd	7pm	All Saints	Prayer gathering
3 rd	10.30am	All Saints	Community Coffee Morning
5 th	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
5 th	8pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
6 th	10am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café
8 th	7pm	All Saints	Youth Club
10 th	2.45pm	St Mary's	Mustard Seed cream tea
12 th	10am	St Mary's	Creative Expressions art group
12 th	8pm	St Mary's	Bell ringing practice
13 th	pm	St Mary's	Visiting bellringers
13 th	10am	All Saints	Community Pantry & Café

Please contact the church office for details, or you can contact the following people about our regular events.

Community Pantry & Café: Barbara Butfoy at butfoybabs@hotmail.co.uk

Youth Club: Phil Hawksley at philhawksley@westwealdparish.org.uk

Alpha course: Phil Hawksley at philhawksley@westwealdparish.org.uk

All Saints: Horsham Road, Handcross, RH17 6DF

St Mark's: Brantridge Lane, Staplefield, RH17 6EJ

St Mary's: Staplefield Road, Slaugham, RH17 6AG

Woodgate Hub: Grace Holand Avenue, Pease Pottage, RH11 9SL

All details are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change.

Ordinary Time

Many of you may know that in the Anglican Church the year is marked by two main seasons: Christmas (Advent, Christmas and Epiphany) and Easter (Lent, Holy week, Easter and Pentecost).

At the time of writing, we have just celebrated Pentecost Sunday as one united parish and had the extra joy and blessing of baptising four people. It was a really joyful, exciting and blessed way to celebrate the birth of the church, remembering the time that God poured out His Holy Spirit on all people and fuelled them to become what we now call the church. The Sunday after Pentecost is Trinity Sunday where we remember that our God is 3-in-1: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And that particular Sunday marks the start of a time between seasons and is known as 'ordinary time'.

I don't know about you but the word 'ordinary' doesn't seem that exciting to me. Ordinary suggests something mundane, plain and possibly boring in comparison with the joy and celebration of Easter and Christmas. The word is actually thought to be more connected to the concept of numbers and counting, i.e. we are counting the weeks after Trinity and leading up to the next Advent season. But regardless of what the word actually means, it's what we focus on in this time that really makes it far from ordinary.

As Christians, we believe that the Bible is one unified story that points to Jesus. There are lots of styles of books in the Bible, written by many different authors, over many years, but they all have the same shared purpose of testifying to God's goodness, and that is seen most in the person of Jesus. So, the first few chapters of Genesis show God's desire for partnership, humanity's failure to live in that partnership and therefore the reason why we need Jesus. The rest of the Old Testament is then telling the story of the people of Israel, set apart from God but still needing Jesus. The prophets then begin to foretell of His coming.

Once we get to the New Testament, we have our four Gospel writers putting Jesus front and centre, each in their own unique style, focusing on the aspects of Jesus that they wanted to get across to their own target audiences. The risen Jesus had utterly changed their lives, and they wanted as many people as possible to know about Him.

The book of Acts in the New Testament, and indeed the many letters (mostly by Paul) that follow it, tell the story and reveal the picture of the difference that Jesus and His followers were making in the world. From thousands being added to the church in a single day, to mission trips overseas, to facing persecution, to establishing new worshipping communities, to raising up leaders for those communities, and more mission trips – we read of the Kingdom of God being established on earth by the church.

This is what ordinary time is all about. Asking the question, if Jesus is alive what does that mean to my daily, ordinary life? The resurrection of Jesus isn't just a joyful concept for Easter Sunday – if we believe it, it changes everything. Those who know the risen Jesus want to live their lives for Him and seek Him not only in the big things, the major festivals and exciting moments, but in the everyday here and now. And,, like the gospel writes, He has changed our lives and we want to see His Kingdom established on earth as it is in Heaven, for people to know how amazing He is, how much He has done for us. We want to partner with Him in that way that was always intended before the fall of mankind, in seeing and being those signs of His kingdom. We know we won't do it perfectly, but that's why we need the Holy Spirit to fuel this 'ordinary' time, and it's all working towards the goal of His Kingdom perfectly restoring and renewing our broken world.

As Robert Webber puts it: *“During this season [we] highlight the work of the Spirit in the mission of the Church in the world...Some worship traditions call it ‘kingdomtide’, focussing on the Kingdom of God that is present now and the*

one that will be realised in a more profound way in the future.” There’s nothing ordinary about that!

Ordinary time, and indeed the entire church calendar, ends on a day called ‘Christ the King’, when we acknowledge that He is King over all, and His Kingdom is the only true, lasting, reliable, consistent, constant, hopeful, righteous, just, fair and loving Kingdom. And then we start a new year in Advent.

There’s nothing ordinary about this time, because in it we are worshipping an extraordinary God who has lavished upon us His extraordinary love in the person of Jesus, whose death and resurrection changes everything!

May God bless you greatly in this ‘ordinary’ time.

Grace and Peace

Carl

Our Bible verses for 2024

When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats.

Luke 5:6-7

West Weald Schools Team

Please pray for Carl and the team as they undertake the vital work in our schools, as well as for the staff and pupils.

Regular assemblies are:

Mondays 11am Brantridge

Tuesday 9am St Mark's Primary

Please also pray for the parenting course taking place at Woodgate Primary.

Our local schools and headteachers are: Brantridge (Mr Dafydd Roberts), Handcross Park (Mr Jonnie Besley), Handcross Primary (Mrs Sharon Bondonno), St Mark's CofE Primary (Mrs Laura Kelsey) and Woodgate Primary (Mrs Sarah Neller).

West Weald Community Pantry and Café

The Pantry was set up and is run by the churches in our Parish: All Saints in Handcross, St Mary's in Slaugham and St Mark's in Staplefield. Pease Pottage, Woodgate and Warninglid are also in the parish. **We offer weekly provisions of food to those within the parishes who are in need of help and support.**

We invite anyone in need to get in touch via our rector Rev'd Carl Smith at handcrossrectory@gmail.com or on 01444 400221. You are very welcome to call in to **All Saints on a Saturday morning between 10 and 11.30am**. Stay for free tea, coffee and biscuits, and chat to someone on our friendly team.

You can donate non-perishable items at:

- Handcross Hardware & Craft in the High Street.
- All Saints Church on a Saturday morning.
- St Mark's Church in Staplefield.
- St Mary's Church in Slaugham.
- The Victory Inn in Staplefield.

Financial donations can also be made: cash, marked 'Pantry', to the hardware shop, or by BACS (sort code 40-24-33, account 22095041, account name Slaugham Parochial Church Council Pantry Account – please note the recent change of account details).

If you would like to be a donation point for collection, or need any other information, then please get in touch. For any Pantry questions, please contact Barbara Butfoy at butfoybabs@hotmail.co.uk or on 07853 228605. Thank you.



QUIZ
night

ALL SAINTS QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY 1ST JUNE
@ 7.30PM

Join us again for a quiz night at All Saints Church, Handcross. £2 per person with a maximum of 6 per team.

PROCEEDS TO THE CARPET FUND
Light Refreshments provided

For the benefit of the whole community we have decided to make this a no alcohol event



Pease Pottage. Handcross. Staplefield. Slaugham.
Warninglid



Sunday
23rd
June

SUNDAYS AT THE HUB

At The Hub
Woodgate cafe
2.30pm

**Worship & Community for all ages -
Come & See!**

A West Weald Parish Event
www.stmarysparish.org.uk

Regular Notices

Hardship Fund

Financial support is available from the Hardship Fund if you or someone you know (living in the benefice) is in need. Forms can be collected from the hardware shop. If you cannot go out, please email Carl (handcrossrectory@gmail.com) and he will send a form electronically.

Gift Aid

Claiming Gift Aid on donations to our churches provides an important contribution to our income. If you are eligible under Gift Aid rules, please make sure Jan (our treasurer) know. Regular giving is most efficient via the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) so please consider using that if you do not so do already. Please speak to Jan or Fae to know more.

Sunday service refreshments

At St Mark's, drinks are available after the service on the second Sunday of the month (and also sometimes the fourth).

At St Mary's, drinks are available after the service on most Sundays.

Parking at St Mary's

If you park in the car park for a Sunday morning service and are blocking in another car, please put a note in your car window to say who you are and that you are in church. This will make it easier (and much less stressful!) to identify who needs to move if anyone's car is trapped. Thank you.

CONTACT

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Lay Apostolic Leader, All Saints

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(term time only)

Helen Arnold

Safeguarding Officer

07540 816170

mrs Helen Arnold@gmail.com

Churchwardens

St Mary's

St Mark's

Colin Tomlinson

Helen Arnold

Website: www.westwealdparish.org.uk

Facebook: West Weald Parish | Facebook

